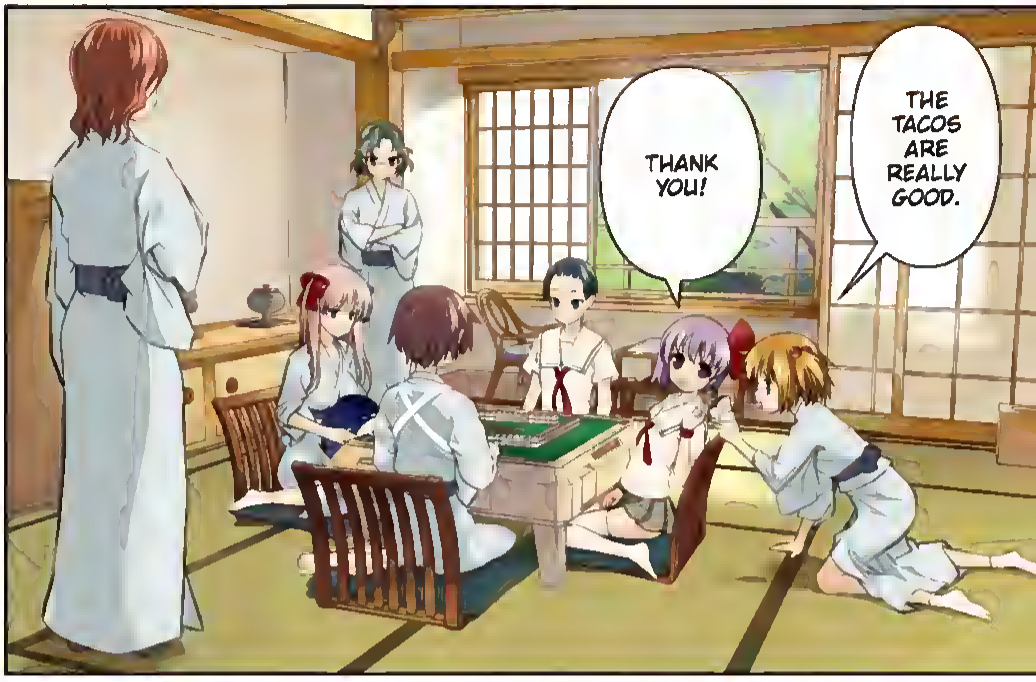
8
Saki
RITZ
KOBAYASHI

HAND 61: THE REAL DEAL

8
Saki
RITZ
KOBAYASHI


THANK YOU!
THE TACOS ARE REALLY GOOD.

EH...?
CHUCKLE
ウス

I HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO SEE MAHO'S TACO POWER IN A LONG TIME.
モグモグ
MUNCH
MUNCH

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Saki 8

THE TASTE OF THIS TACO..... IT TAKES ME BACK...
FWISH
MY IDOL, NODOKA-SENPAI, IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...HAS IT BEEN FOUR MONTHS SINCE WE LAST PLAYED TOGETHER?
FWUP

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HER IN PERSON.
IS THIS LITTLE GIRL THE ONE YOU WERE TELLING ME ABOUT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
APRIL
YOU'RE HERE ALREADY?
YEAH ...

WHAT'S THAT THERE?
GAME RECORDS.
OH...
SO YOU HAVE RECORDS ON THE TWO GIRLS WHO JOINED YESTERDAY...
FROM LAST YEAR'S NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURNAMENT.
STILL, THERE'S ONE MORE...
... INTERESTING PERSON IN THIS MIDDLE SCHOOL.
PLENTY ON HARAMURA-SAN...
... BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE MATCH FROM THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIERS FOR KATAOKA-SAN.

RON!
18,000 !!
FLASH

STARTING AS DEALER AND GETTING A HIGH WIN FROM THE GET-GO— SHE REALLY IS JUST LIKE YUKI-CHAN...
IT'S TACO POWER!

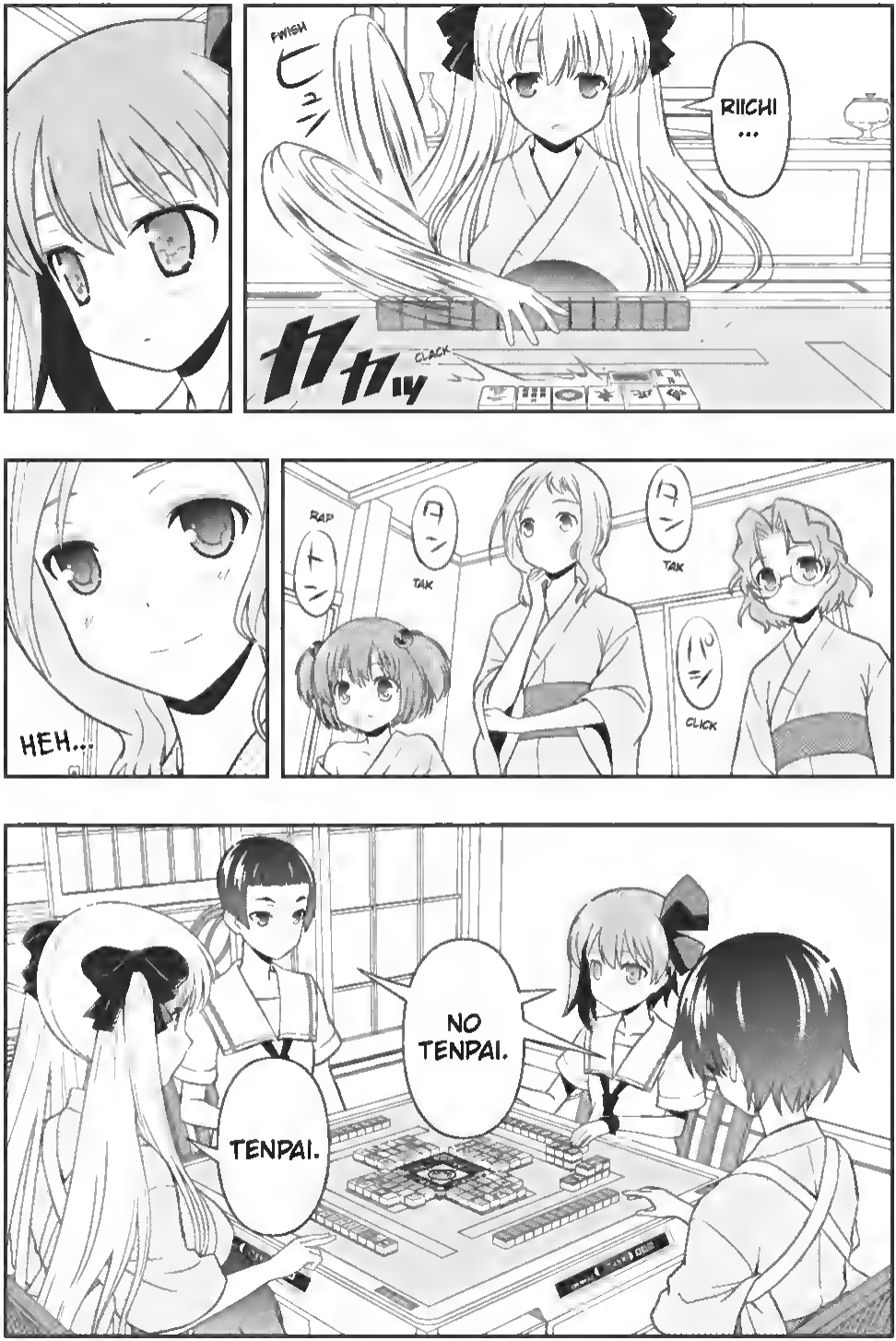
OUCH. EIGHTEEN GRAND RIGHT OUT OF THE GATE?
.....

EAST HAND ONE BONUS HAND 1
WHUM
SWISH
ASH
SHE STARTED PLAYING MAHJONG ONLINE BECAUSE OF YOUR INFLUENCE, NODOKA-SENPAI...
MA-HOCCHI.....?
NOW SHE'S "MAHOCCHI," HUH...?
.....

SHE PLAYS AS AN "ANGEL" NAMED "SUPER MAHOCCHI" ...

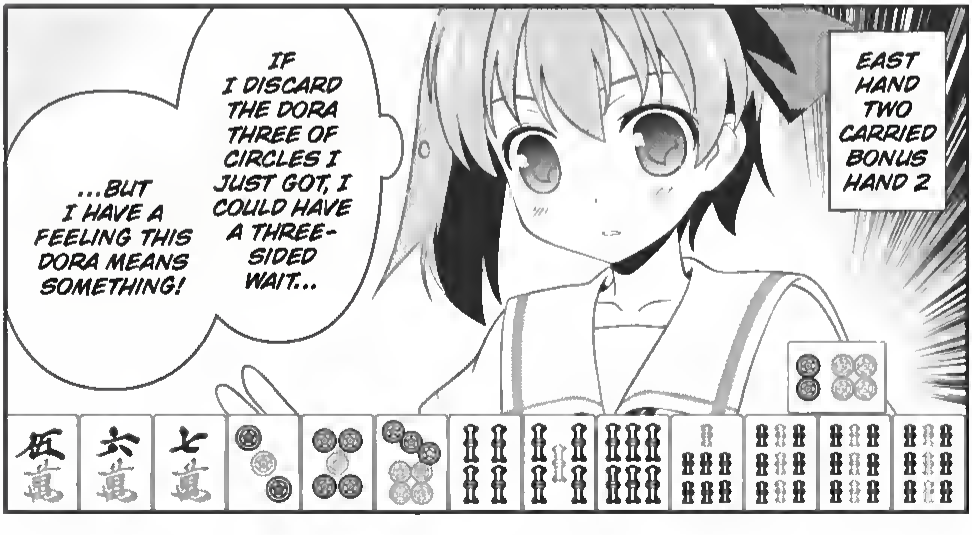
AH.

1200 ..
BUT SHE'S "SUPER-WEAK," WITH A RATING IN THE 1,200s.


RIICHI ...
HEH...
RAP
TAK
TAK
CLICK
NO TENPAI.
TENPAI.

A CLEAN GET-AWAY...
...JUST LIKE NODOKA.
LOOKS LIKE YOU CAN'T IMITATE HER IN THIS DEPART-MENT, HUH?
EEEK!

EVEN THE GAME RECORDS SHOW THAT, FOR ONE HAND EACH GAME, SHE PLAYED JUST LIKE NODOKA OR YUKI.
CAN SHE ONLY PUT WHAT SHE LEARNED INTO PRACTICE FOR ONE HAND? OR.....


EAST HAND TWO CARRIED BONUS HAND 2
IF I DISCARD THE DORA THREE OF CIRCLES I JUST GOT, I COULD HAVE A THREE-SIDED WAIT...
...BUT I HAVE A FEELING THIS DORA MEANS SOMETHING!

CLICK
RAP
WOW...
WITH THE TWO BONUS COUNTERS, IT'S 8,600!
THAT'S A RON!
FWISH
TAK
TAP
EAST HAND THREE
WHIRRR
CHIK
HUH ...?

!
MIYANAGA-SENPAI, MAYBE YOU'RE WAITING FOR THE FIVE OF CHARACTERS?
六萬
七萬
西
西
西
I HAVE A FEELING I CAN WIN WITH A DEAD WALL DRAW.
KONG!

CRACKLE
CRACKLE
BAM
WHAT

FSSS
RINSHAN KAIHO— FLOWER ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP—, TSUMO, TWO DORA...
THAT'S 2,000/ 4,000!
EH...?
THE REAL DEAL!

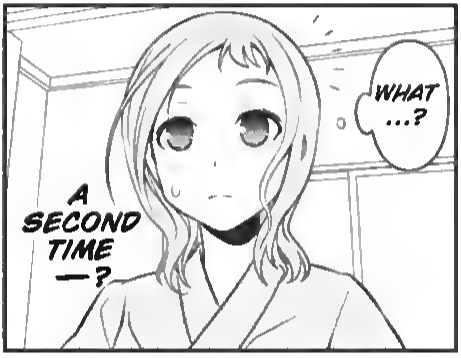
HAND 62: IMITATION

EH.....?
FWOOO
RINSHAN KAIHO!?
I DID IT!
...THIS GIRL!?
WHO IS...

MIYA-NAGA-SAN...?
?
CLENCH
MM...
EAST HAND FOUR
RATTLE
RATTLE

THERE!
KONG!!
HUH?

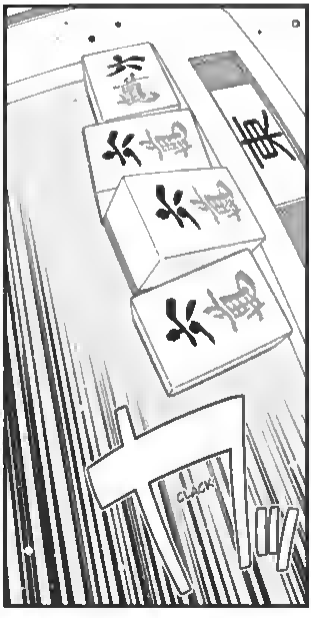
TURN 11
TAK

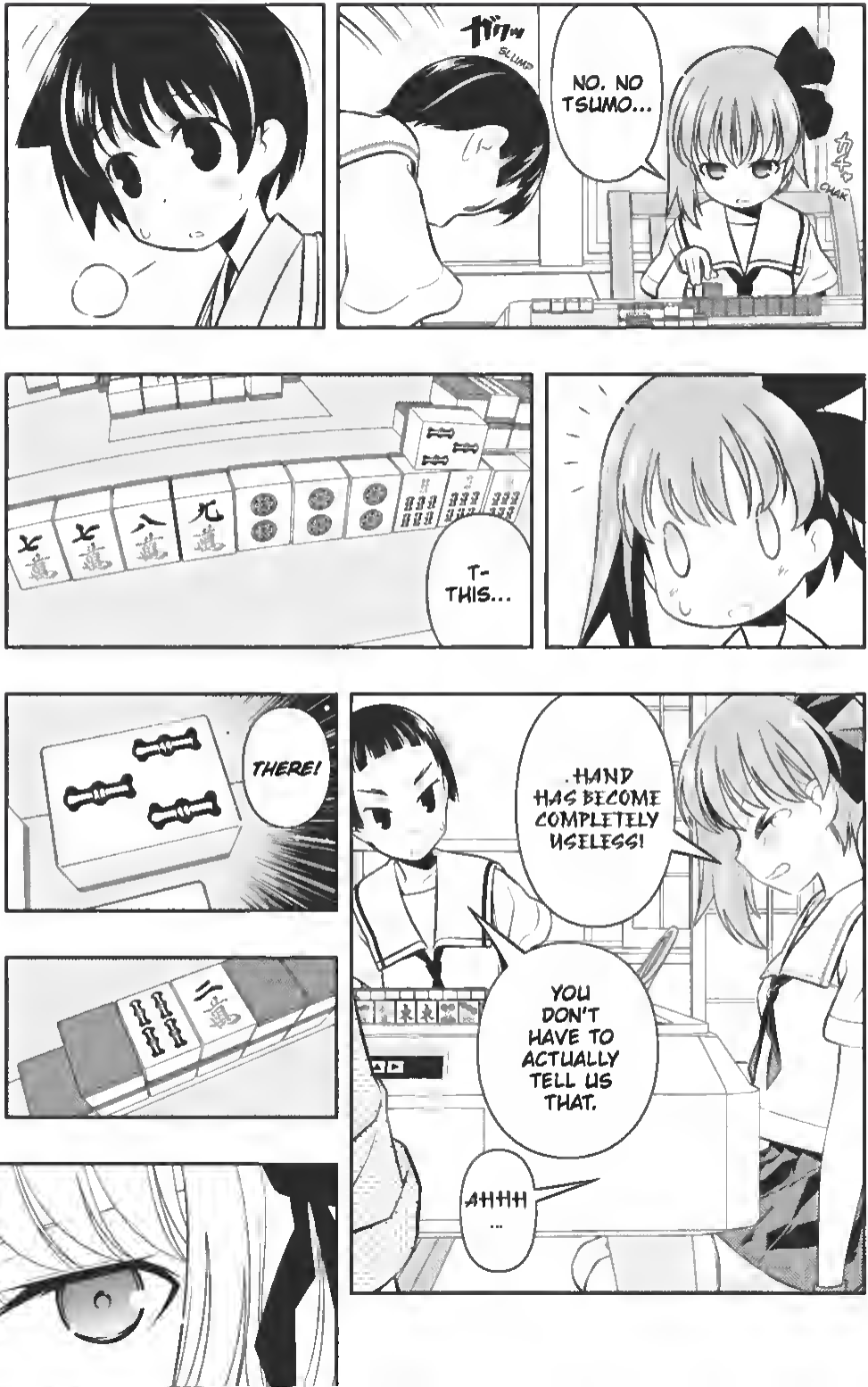

WHAT ...?
A SECOND TIME —?

!!

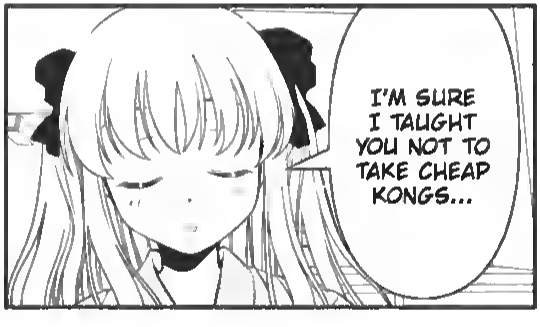
SHUDDER

RIN-SHAN...
FOO


CLACK


ガクッ
SLUMP
NO. NO TSUMO...
カチ
CHAK
T-THIS...
THERE!
.HAND HAS BECOME COMPLETELY USELESS!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACTUALLY TELL US THAT.
AHHH ...

RON!
12,000!
CRACK
ピシ!ヘアツ


I'M SURE I TAUGHT YOU NOT TO TAKE CHEAP KONGS...

AH!
SHOCK
カ!!ン

B-BUT...

...THAT BEING CLOSE TO HER MAKES MAHO KEEP THINKING ABOUT IT.
AROUND STRONG PLAYERS ...
...MAHO SAW MIYANAGA-SENPAI'S RINSHAN KAIHO AT THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIERS AND IT WAS JUST SO INCREDIBLE...
...MAHO CAN'T HELP BUT WISH TO PLAY LIKE THEM.
.....
IT DIDN'T WORK THIS TIME...
...BUT IN THAT LAST HAND, I THOUGHT MAYBE I COULD GET A RINSHAN.
THERE'S NOTHING MYSTICAL ABOUT MAHJONG.
YOU WERE ALWAYS LIKE THAT, MAHO-CHAN...
YOU WOULD IMITATE EITHER MY OR YUKI'S STYLE, AND MAYBE IT'D GO WELL FOR ABOUT ONE HAND...

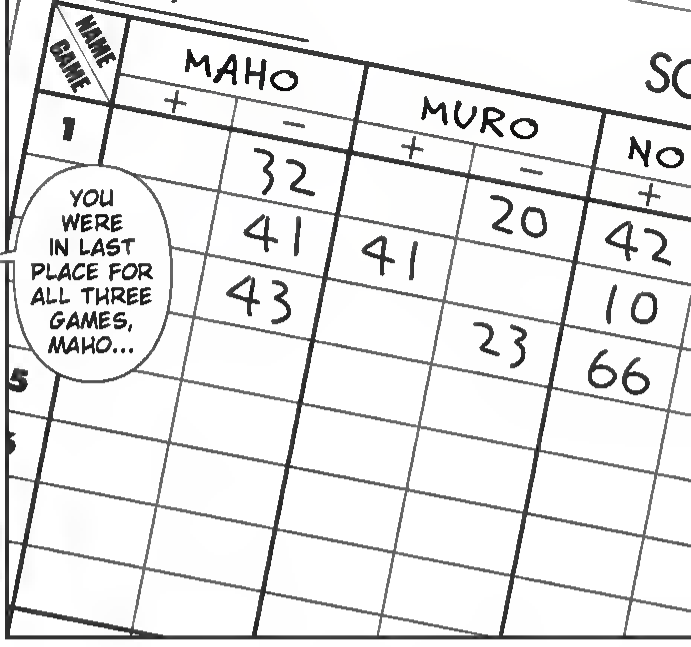
BEFORE COPYING OTHER PLAYERS, YOU SHOULD WORK ON IMPROVING YOUR OWN GAME...
SHE IDOLIZES THEM SO MUCH THAT SHE IMITATES THEM ...?
I WAS TOO HARSH.
COPYCAT OR NOT, SHE ATTENDS PRO WORKSHOPS AND STAYS LATE PRACTICING AT THE CLUB EVERY DAY!
MA—
MAHO IS DOING THE BEST SHE CAN!
...SINCE THEN.
LET'S SEE HOW MUCH YOU'VE IMPROVED ...
THE LAST TIME WE PLAYED TOGETHER WAS FOUR MONTHS AGO.
OKAY!!

I'LL DO MY BEST!
MAHO'S THE DEALER ...
SOUTH HAND ONE
MAHO!
AH!
SWISH
IF YOU DRAW, YOU'LL HAVE TOO MANY TILES!
AH...
THAT'S RIGHT
OH NO!

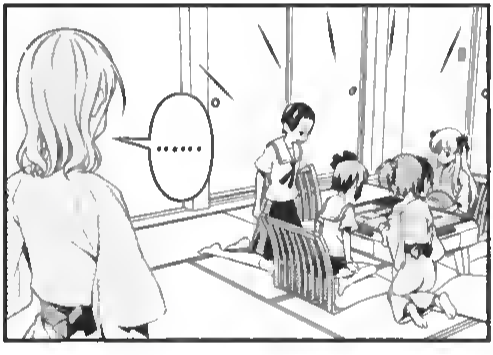
SHE'S AN ETERNAL ROOKIE.
EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING FOR OVER A YEAR ...!?
YOU CAN'T GET THROUGH ONE DAY WITHOUT GETTING A PENALTY FOR A FOUL, CAN YOU?
COMBINED TRAINING CAMP—!?
RIGHT?
I SEE.
WHY DON'T YOU HOST IT YOURSELF YASUKO?
YES...I WANT YOU TO BRING FOUR SCHOOLS TOGETHER.
.....

ULP ...
IS THIS ABOUT A JAPANESE CANDIDATE FOR THE WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP? OR MAYBE NATIONALS IN THE FALL?
MAYBE THERE'S A SECRET REASON YOU WANT IT TO LOOK LIKE A PRO'S NOT INVOLVED?
I DON'T KNOW ...
I'M NOT INCLUDED IN THAT GROUP?
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR PLAYERS YOU CAN'T GET AT THE USUAL QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS, AREN'T YOU?
AS A PRO, I DO HAVE SOME DIGNITY.
DON'T ADDRESS ME SO CASUALLY AT THE CAMP.
HUH?
NOTHING.
NOT THAT I CARE...
WHISPER
A-HA H.A!
I WOULD APPRECIATE IT.
YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME. OF COURSE I'LL BE MORE RESPECTFUL TO YOU IN PUBLIC.
DON'T FORGET NOW.
OH.
I THOUGHT YOU'D LOST IT LONG AGO.
EX-CUSE ME?

YOU WERE IN LAST PLACE FOR ALL THREE GAMES, MAHO...
UGH ...
THAT'S THE MAHO I KNOW.


NAME
GAME
MAHO
MURO
NO
+
−
1
32
41
43
41
20
23
42
10
66

THE ONLY THING THAT I YEARN FOR NOW...
WITH APOLOGIES TO YASUKO, RIGHT NOW I'M JUST NOT INTERESTED IN WORLD TOURNA-MENTS.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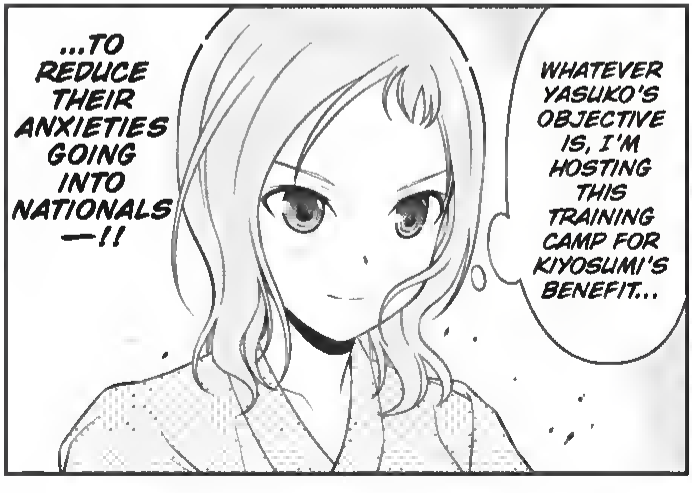
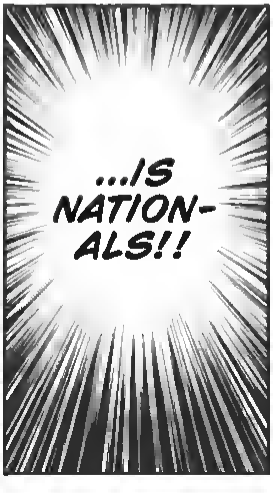
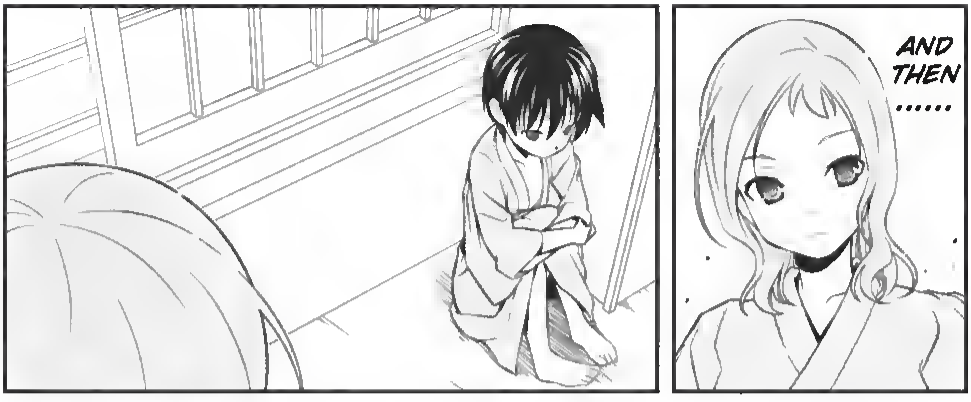
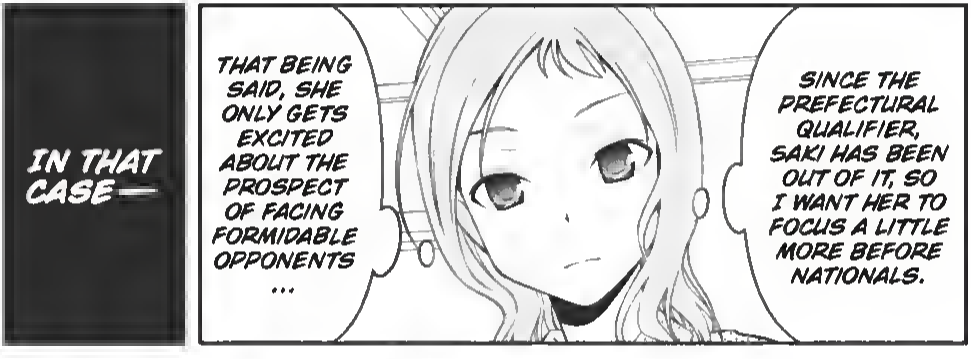
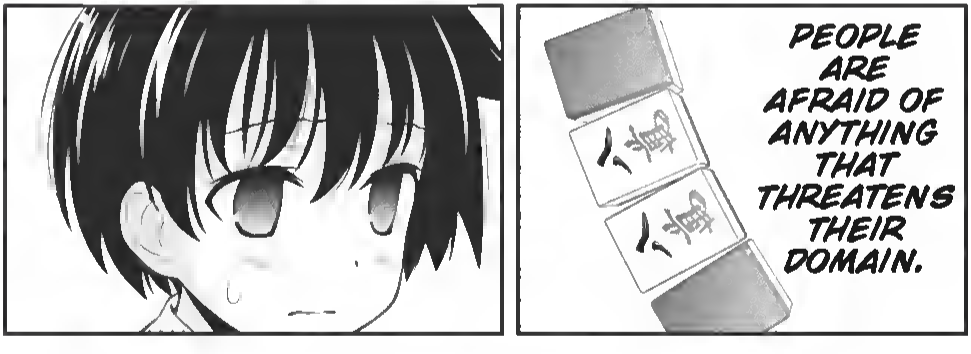

...TO REDUCE THEIR ANXIETIES GOING INTO NATIONALS —!!
WHATEVER YASUKO'S OBJECTIVE IS, I'M HOSTING THIS TRAINING CAMP FOR KIYOSUMI'S BENEFIT...

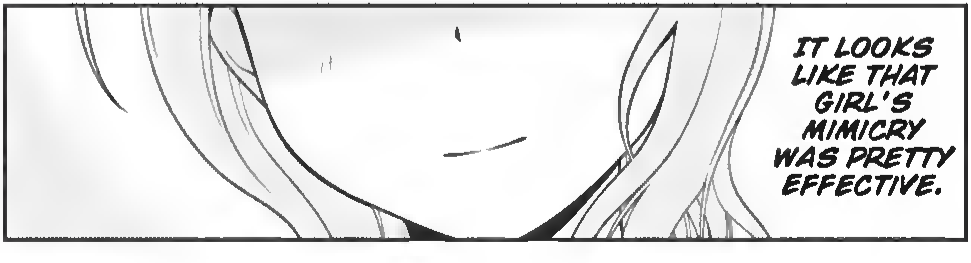

...IS NATION-ALS!!

MAKO CAN MEMORIZE THE LAYOUT OF A TABLE JUST LIKE SHE WOULD A PERSON'S FACE.
FIRST—
WE MAKE MAKO STRONGER!
...I REALIZED THAT SHE NEEDS TO EXPAND HER REPERTOIRE.
BUT THANKS TO SENOO-SAN FROM TSURUGA...
...THAT'S ALL IT WOULD TAKE TO MAKE HER READY FOR BATTLE.
I THOUGHT IF I SHOWED HER A LOT OF NATIONAL-LEVEL SCORE SHEETS...
I WAS A LITTLE NERVOUS THAT SENOO-SAN WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH...
FOR ME, THE MAIN POINT OF THIS CAMP IS GETTING MAKO MORE DATA—ESPECIALLY WITH THE ADDITION OF A SPECIAL NEWCOMER TO THE MIX.
...BUT THIS WILL EXPAND MAKO'S RANGE BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS—!!

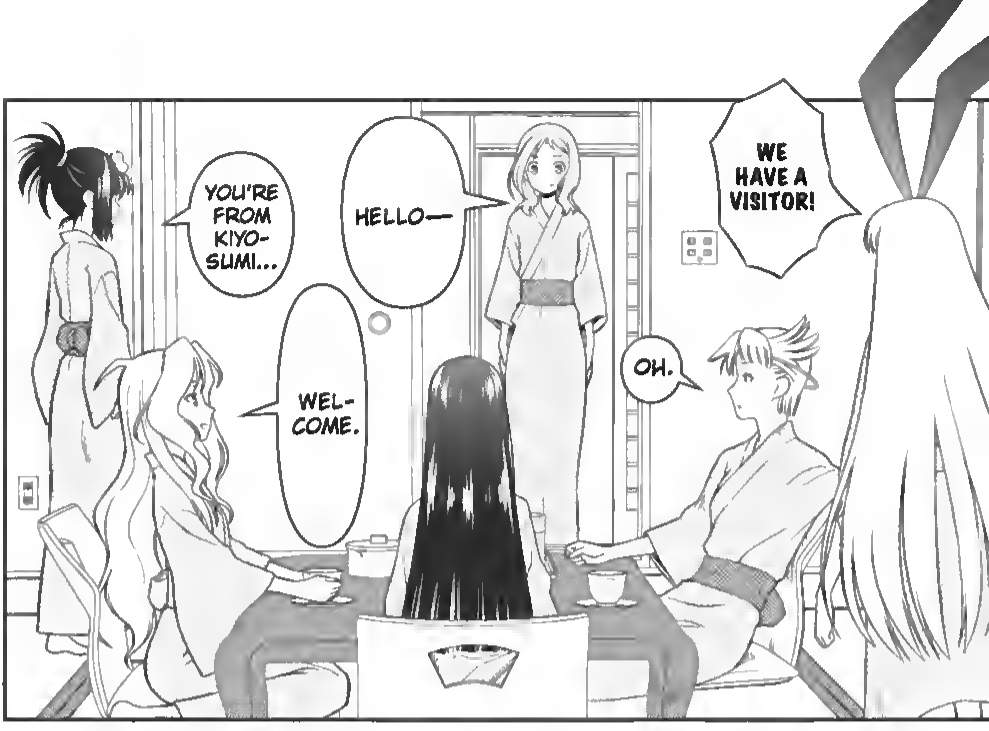

AND THEN .....


IN THAT CASE—
THAT BEING SAID, SHE ONLY GETS EXCITED ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF FACING FORMIDABLE OPPONENTS ...
SINCE THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER, SAKI HAS BEEN OUT OF IT, SO I WANT HER TO FOCUS A LITTLE MORE BEFORE NATIONALS.

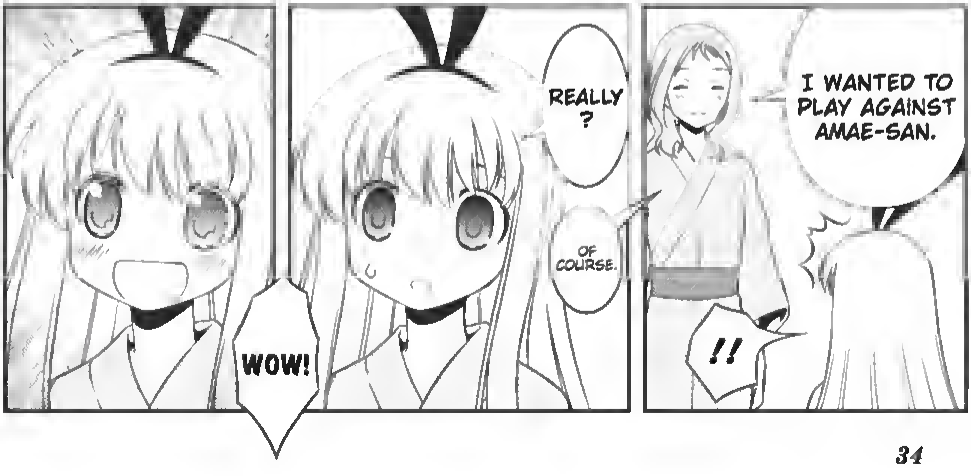

PEOPLE ARE AFRAID OF ANYTHING THAT THREATENS THEIR DOMAIN.


IT LOOKS LIKE THAT GIRL'S MIMICRY WAS PRETTY EFFECTIVE.

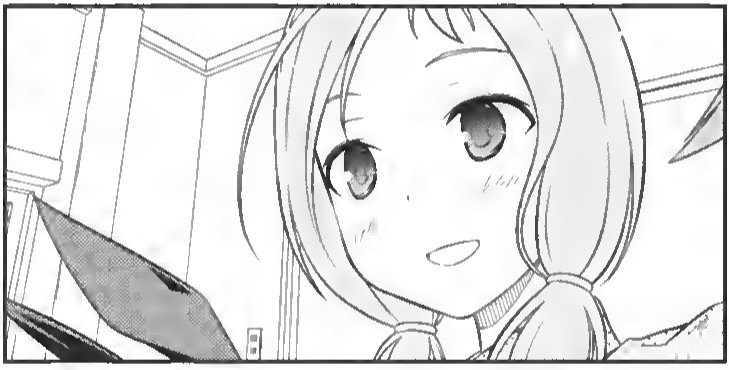
AND THEN ...
...THERE'S MYSELF.
I'M GOING OUT FOR A BIT.
EVEN IF NODOKA AND YUUKI GET STRONGER BY PLAYING AGAINST THE OTHER SCHOOLS HERE, I'D STILL BETTER PREPARE ANOTHER REGIMEN FOR THEM FOR AFTERWARD...
LET ME AT 'EM!
EEEK!
SO WHO SHOULD I PLAY...
...TO GET STRONGER!?
EAGER
SHUT
576
Ryumonbuchi High School

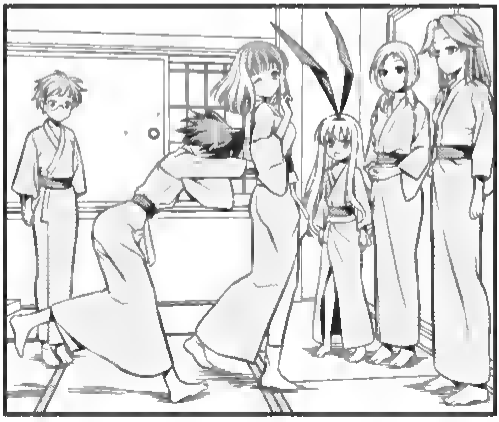

WE HAVE A VISITOR!
HELLO—
YOU'RE FROM KIYOSUMI...
OH.
WELCOME.

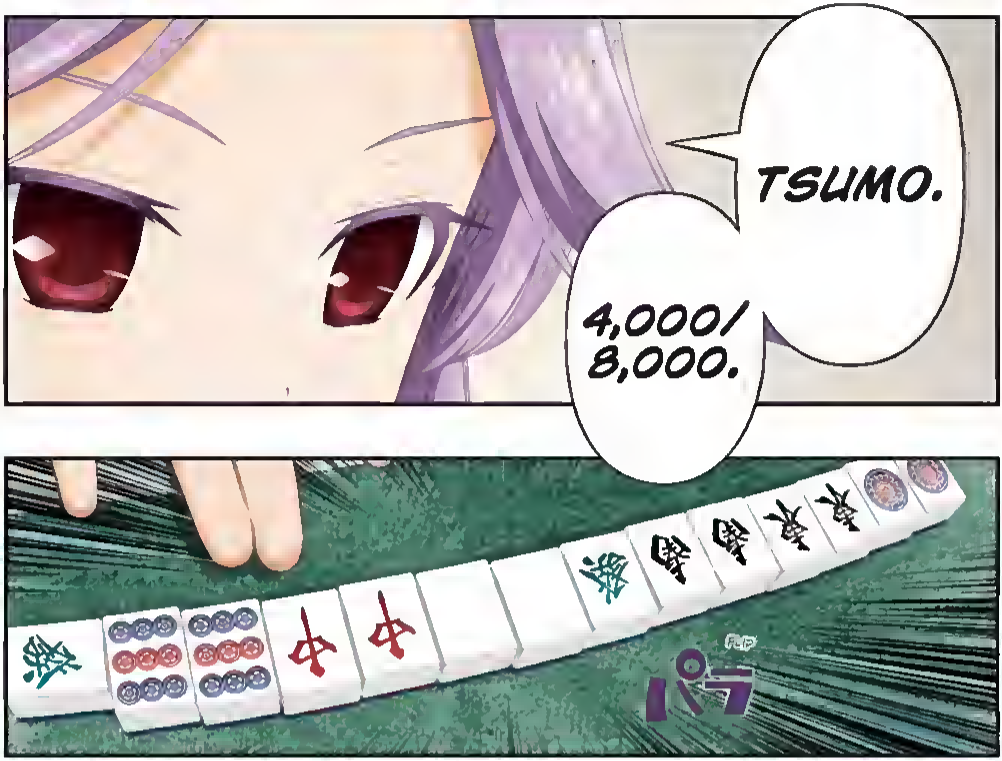
RYUMON-BUCHI-SAN...
...IS BACK TO NORMAL. TOO BAD.
WHAT IS IT?


I WANTED TO PLAY AGAINST AMAE-SAN.
!!
REALLY?
OF COURSE.
WOW!

Hi!!
Hi!
HISA ?
YUMI!
!
TODAY TOO, I HOPE.
WE GOT CHUMMY LAST NIGHT.
LAST NIGHT!? YOU GOT CHUMMY ..!?
WH-WH-WH-WH-WHY ARE YOU CALLING HER BY NAME. WITHOUT EVEN ANY HONORIFIC !?
WHO IS THIS GIRL!?
I HAVE SOMEONE IN MIND.
WHO'S LAST?
"NOTHING"!?
!!
CALM DOWN, MOMO.
NOTHING HAPPENED.





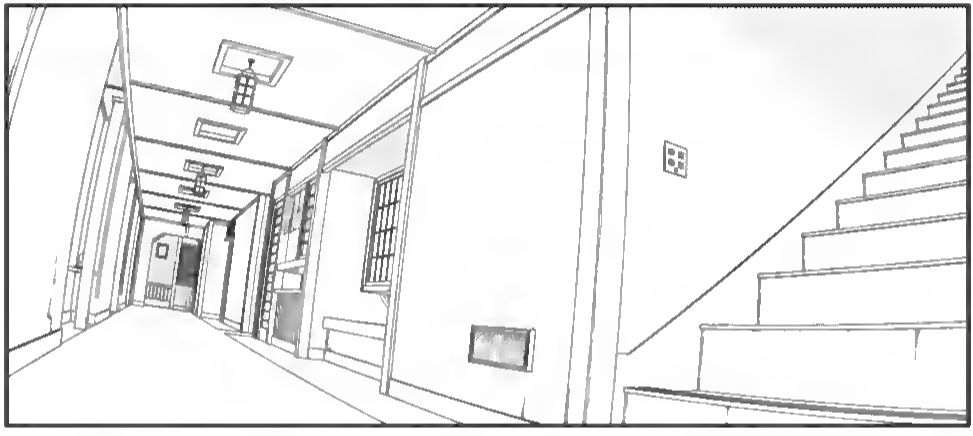

TSUMO.
4,000/
8,000.
FLIP
パラ

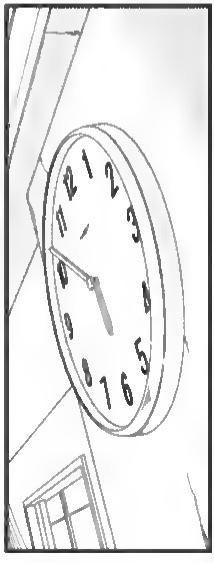
GRRR...
.....

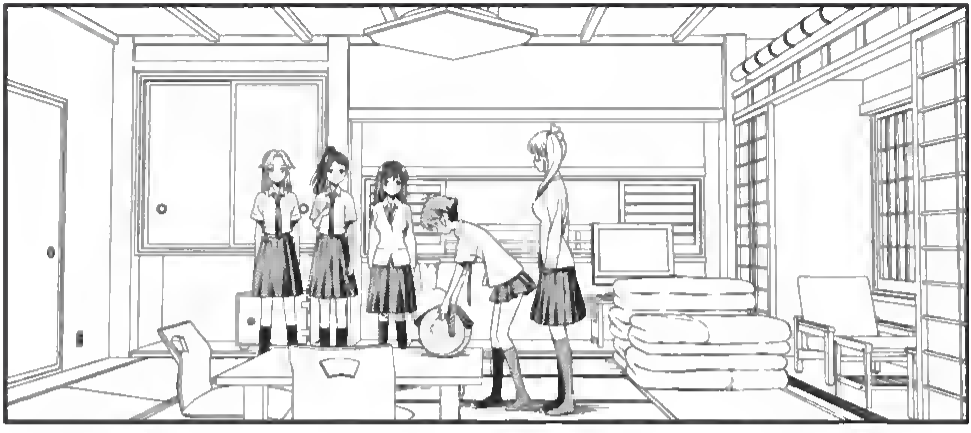
YOU FORMED THAT HAND WITHOUT SETTING OFF ANY ALARMS...
KNOWING YOU THREE, I DIDN'T THINK I COULD WIN IT IF I GAVE AWAY ANY TELLS.

77
CHUCKLE

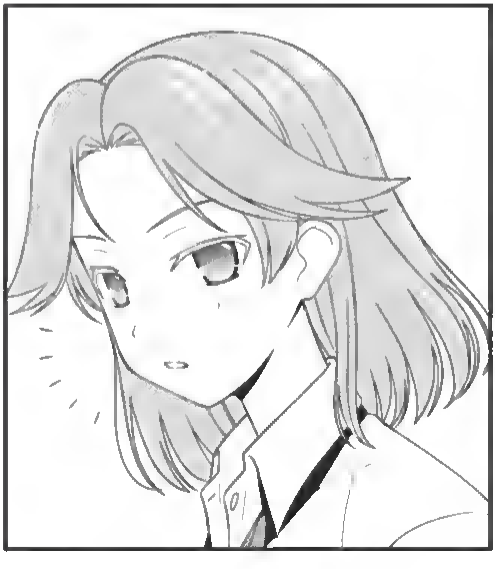
HAND 63: ADJOURNMENT



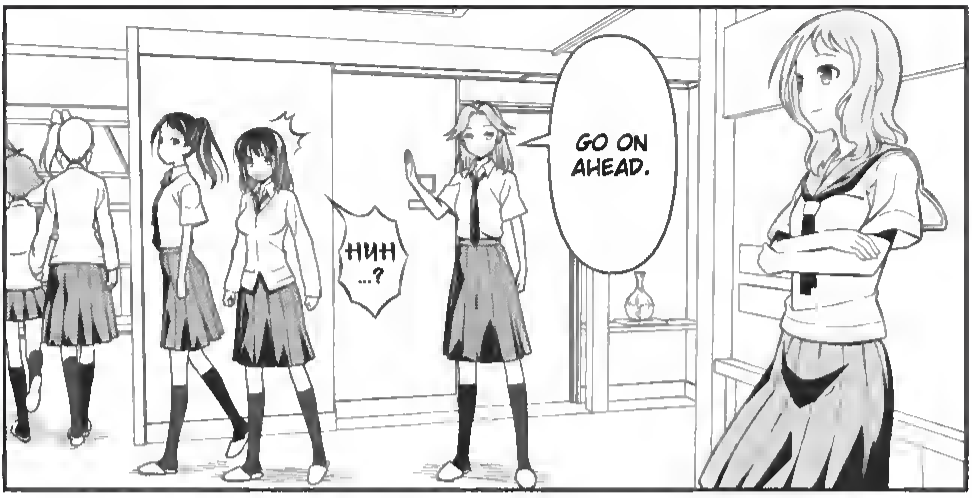




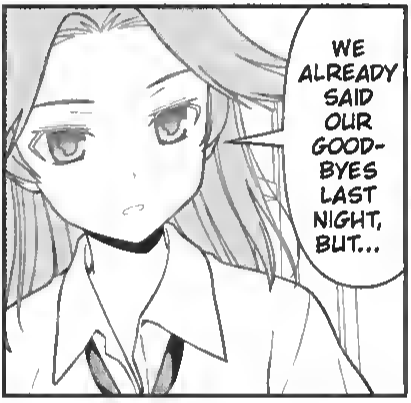
IS THIS EVERY-THING?
NOTHING LEFT BEHIND, YO!
.....
THEN SHALL WE GO?

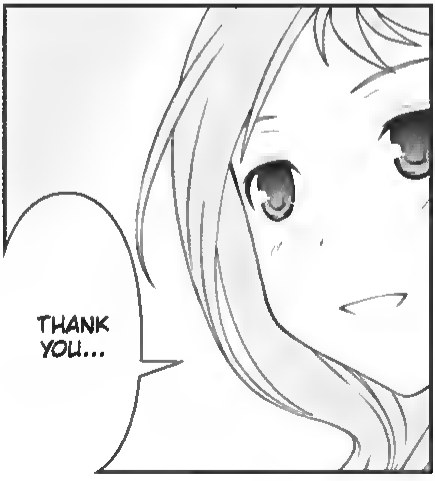


IF WE LEAVE NOW, WE CAN MAKE IT BACK TO TSURUGA BY NINE.
WA HA HA!


GO ON AHEAD.
HUH ...?

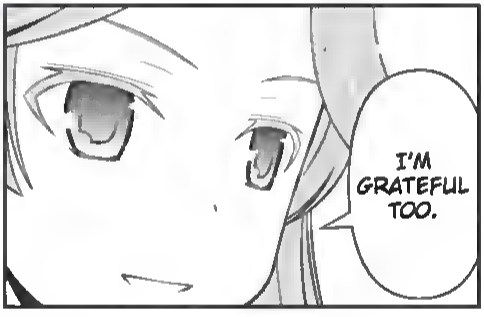
LAST NIGHT'S GAME GOT ME SO EXCITED I COULD HARDLY SLEEP.

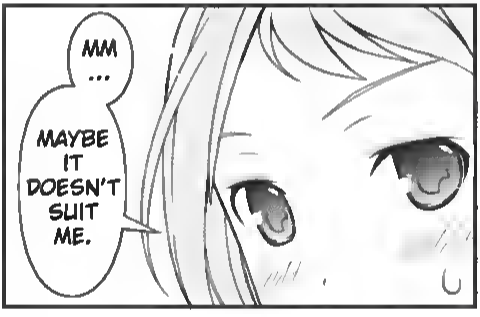

WE ALREADY SAID OUR GOOD-BYES LAST NIGHT, BUT...


THANK YOU...

SEEING SOMEONE OFF DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A THING YOU'D DO.

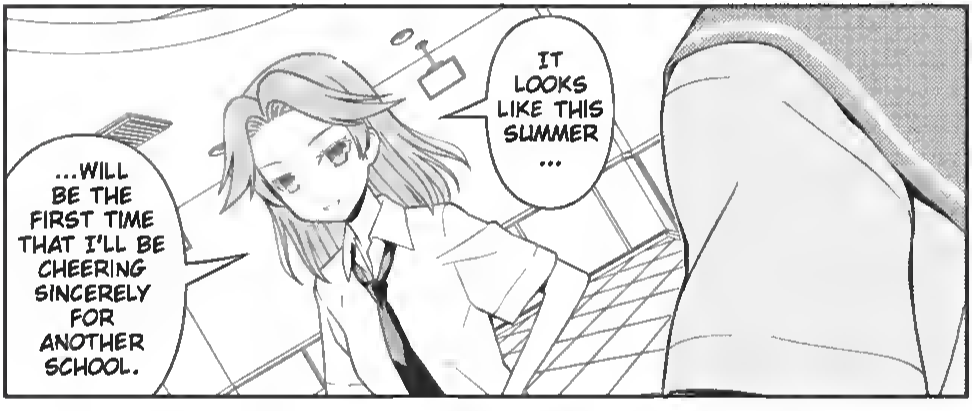
I REALLY AM...
...GRATEFUL YOU CAME.
I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW SENTIMENTAL YOU WERE.

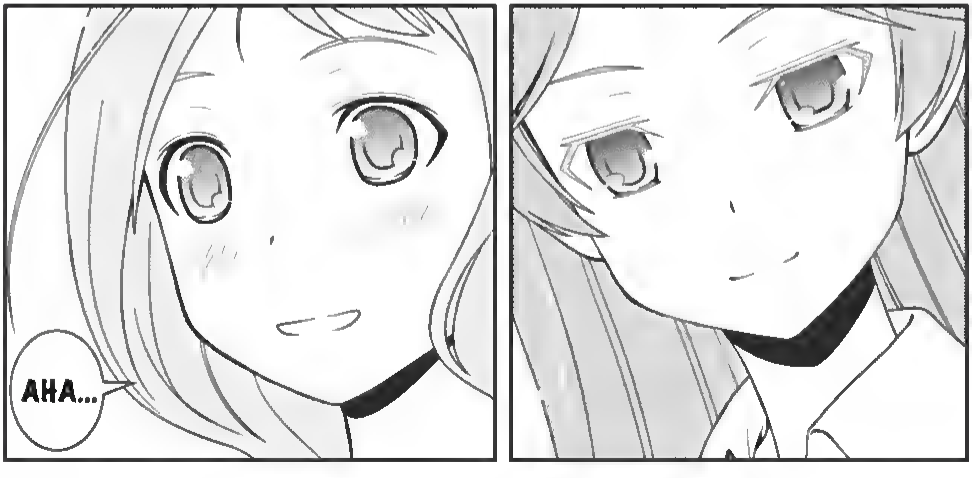

I'M GRATEFUL TOO.

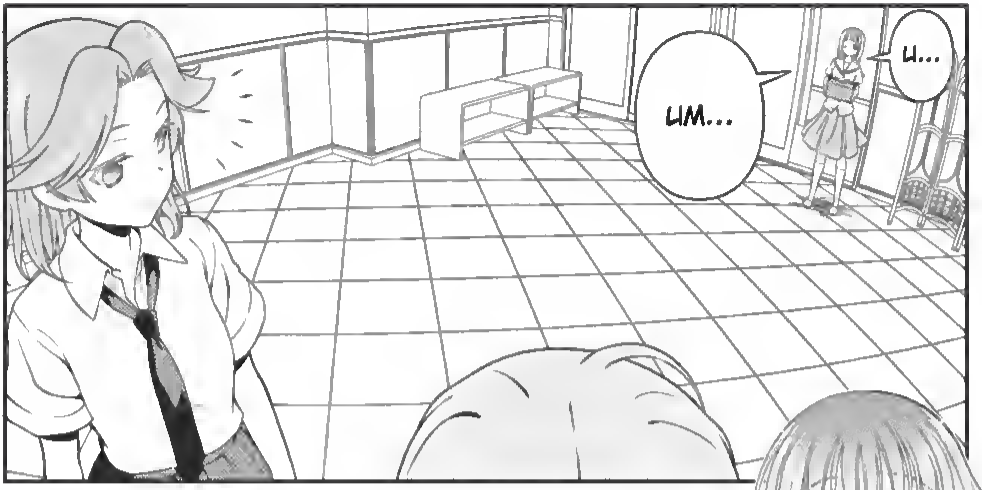

MM...
MAYBE IT DOESN'T SUIT ME.

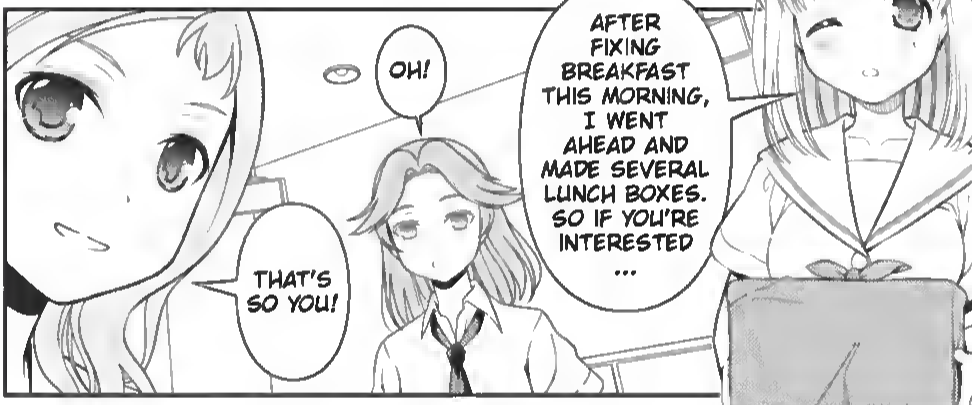
MAYBE I'M LOW ON FIGHTING SPIRIT.
THANKS TO LOSING IN THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER, I WAS ABLE TO JUST ENJOY THIS CAMP.

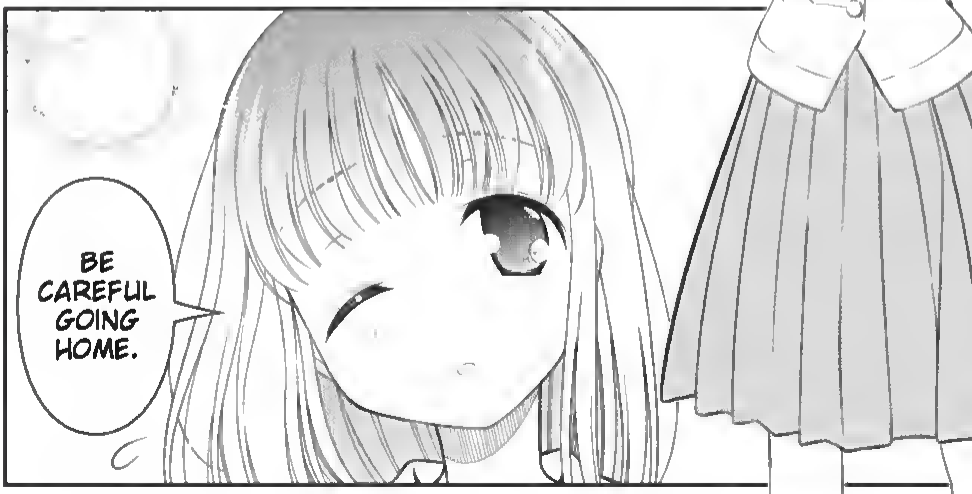
BUT YOU GUYS...CAN'T AFFORD TO JUST HAVE A GOOD TIME, CAN YOU?
THERE'S SOMETHING WAITING FOR YOU JUST AROUND THE CORNER.


IT LOOKS LIKE THIS SUMMER ...
...WILL BE THE FIRST TIME THAT I'LL BE CHEERING SINCERELY FOR ANOTHER SCHOOL.


AHA...

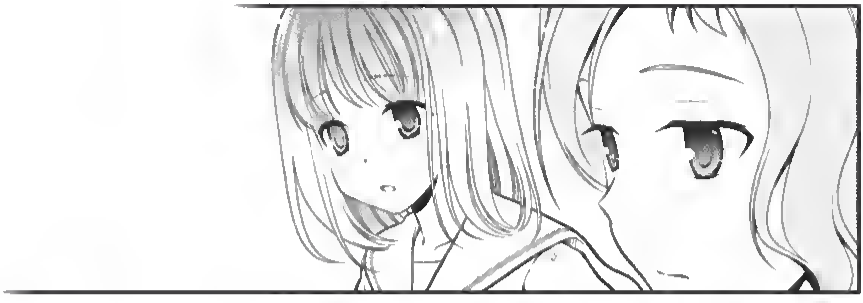

UM...
U...

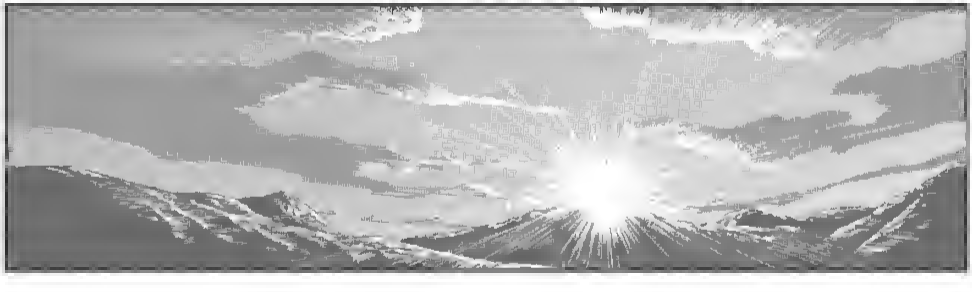

AFTER FIXING BREAKFAST THIS MORNING, I WENT AHEAD AND MADE SEVERAL LUNCH BOXES. SO IF YOU'RE INTERESTED ...
OH!
THAT'S SO YOU!


BE CAREFUL GOING HOME.

THANK YOU...

PLEASE GIVE THIS TO BUNDO-SAN...
EH?
KAZE-KOSHI CAPTAIN-SAN!
TAP
WELL...
SEE YOU AGAIN SOMEDAY, SOME-WHERE.
A CARD ?



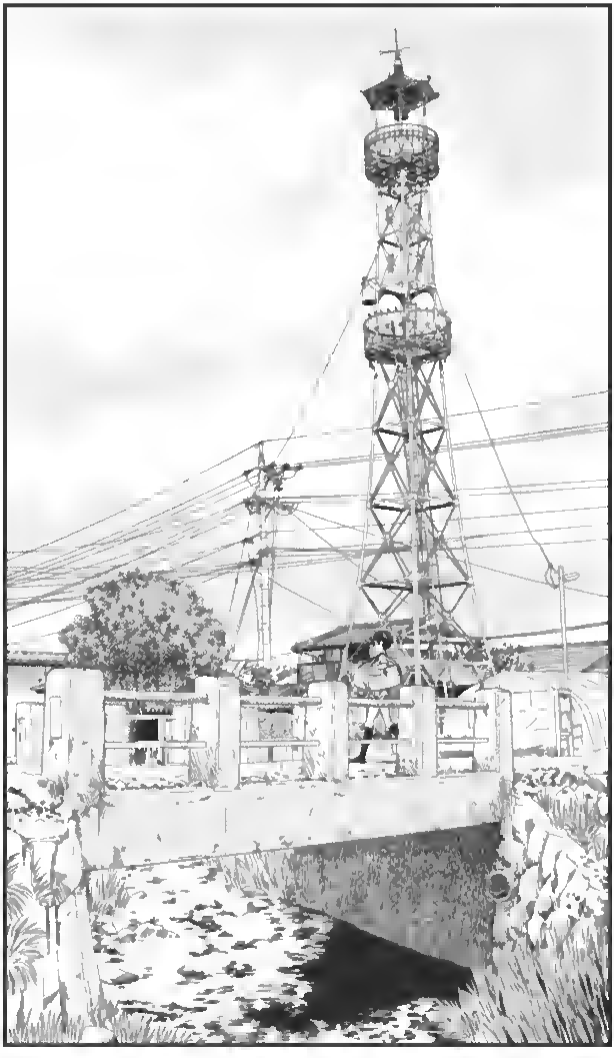


AND
SO...

AUGUST
—
...THEIR ARRIVAL SIGNALS THE START OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TOURNAMENT.
AS STRONG PLAYERS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY GATHERED IN ONE PLACE...

Saki 8

Saki 8

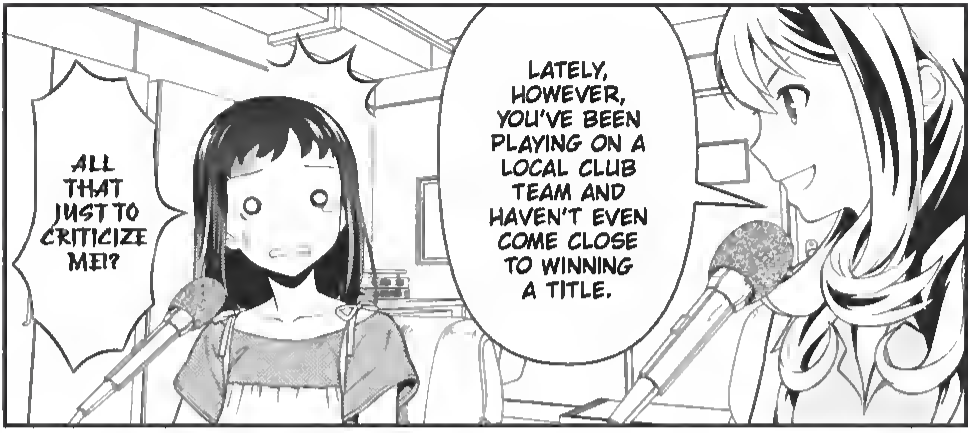


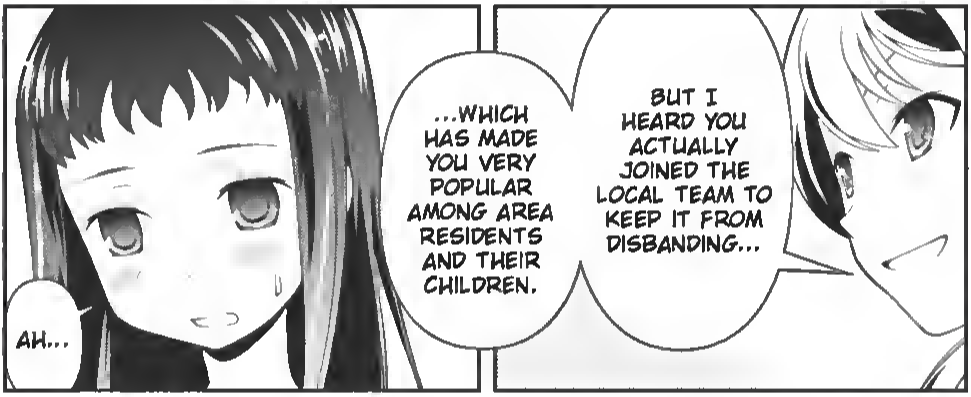
GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORN-ING!

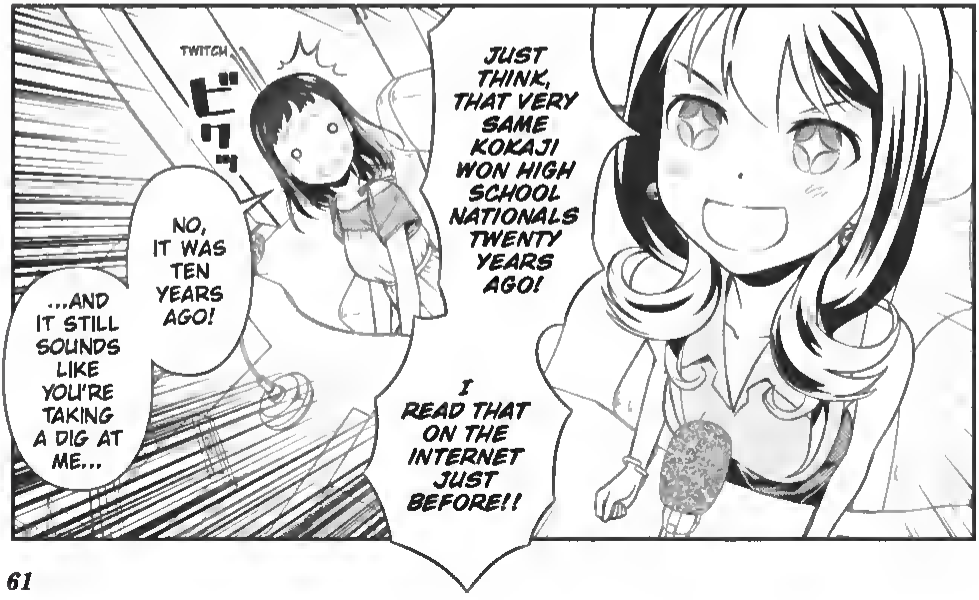
YEP.
IT'S TIME—
WELL, IT'S TIME.
TIME FOR NATIONALS—
...MY BIG SISTER!!
WHERE I CAN SEE...

HAND 64: TO TOKYO

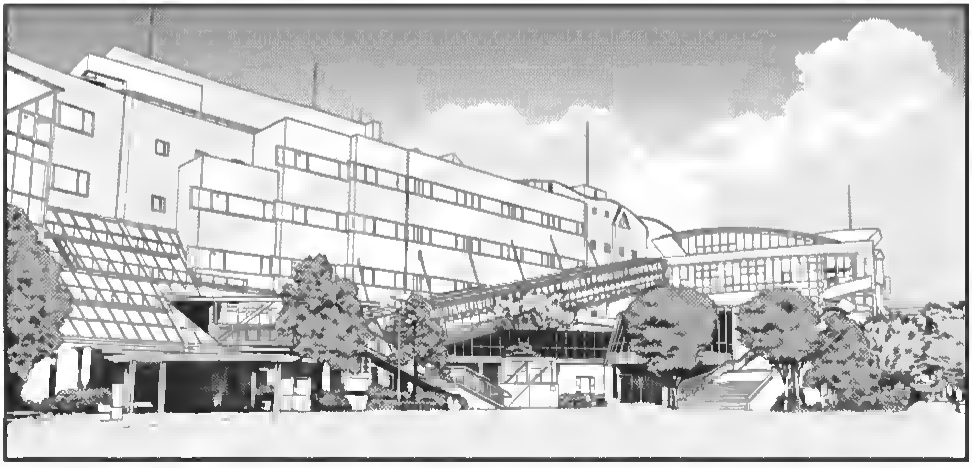
Round and vigorous, it's national high school tournament radiooo!!
THIS WEEK TOO, YOU'VE GOT YOURS TRULY, THE NOT SO ROUND SUPER ANNOUNCER, KOKO FUKUYO AND...
EH ...?
A-AND THE NOT SO VIGOROUS SUKOYA KOKAJI, BRINGING YOU THE LATEST INFORMATION ON THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT.
I ACTUALLY AM PRETTY HEALTHY ...
KOKAJI, AS A PRO, YOU HAVE A GLOWING TRACK RECORD. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU WON A SILVER MEDAL AT THE EAST ROUND-ONLY FREESTYLE IN RIO DE JANEIRO.
?
WHY BRING THAT UP?

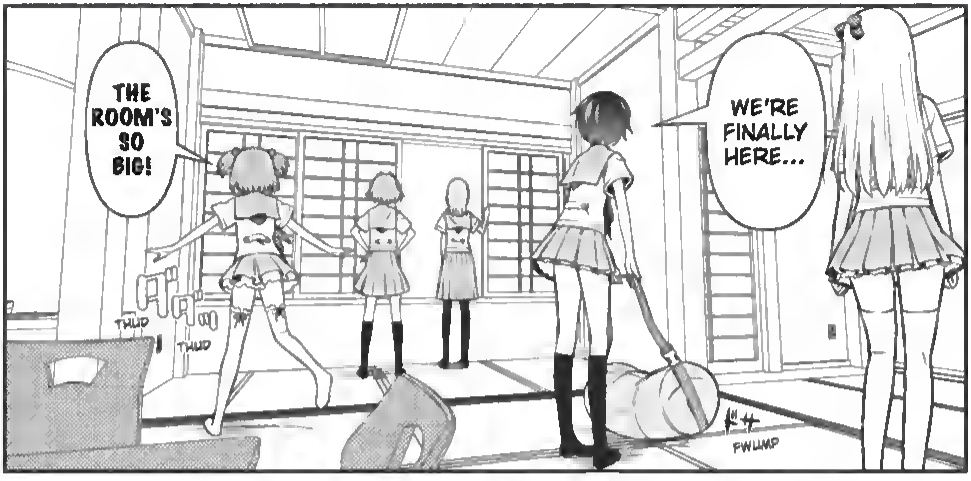

LATELY, HOWEVER, YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING ON A LOCAL CLUB TEAM AND HAVEN'T EVEN COME CLOSE TO WINNING A TITLE.
ALL THAT JUST TO CRITICIZE ME!?


BUT I HEARD YOU ACTUALLY JOINED THE LOCAL TEAM TO KEEP IT FROM DISBANDING...
...WHICH HAS MADE YOU VERY POPULAR AMONG AREA RESIDENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN.
AH...


JUST THINK, THAT VERY SAME KOKAJI WON HIGH SCHOOL NATIONALS TWENTY YEARS AGO!
I READ THAT ON THE INTERNET JUST BEFORE!!
TWITCH
ビク
NO, IT WAS TEN YEARS AGO!
...AND IT STILL SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE TAKING A DIG AT ME...

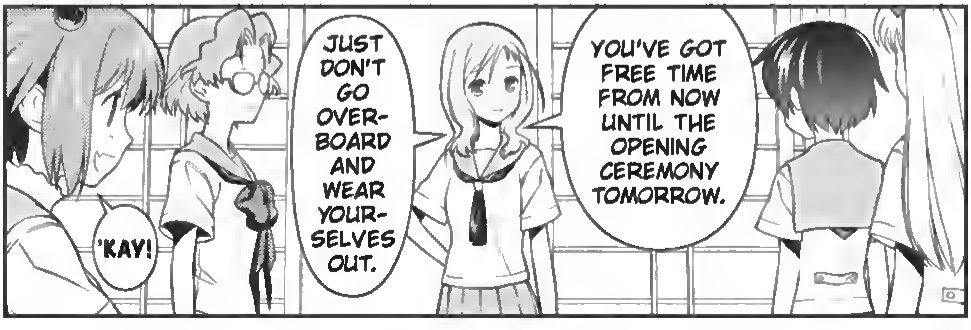
.....
STUDENTS FROM THREE THOUSAND SCHOOLS HAVE BATTLED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.
THIS YEAR TOO—
...ARE GATHERING HERE IN TOKYO, ONE AFTER ANOTHER!
...TEAMS FROM FORTY-EIGHT REPRESENTATIVE SCHOOLS THAT WON FIERCE LOCAL TOURNAMENTS...
AND NOW...

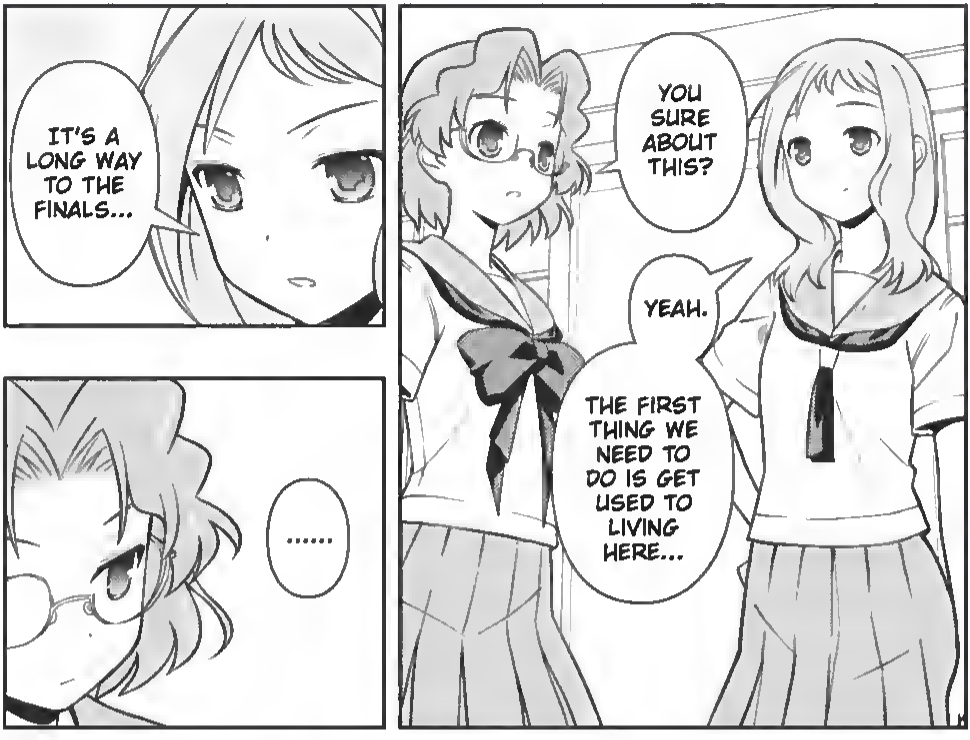



THE ROOM'S SO BIG!
WE'RE FINALLY HERE...
THUD
THUD
FWUMP

OKAY.

WHERE'S KYOTA-RO?
SUGA-KUN HAS A SINGLE ROOM IN THE NEXT WING.


'KAY!
JUST DON'T GO OVER-BOARD AND WEAR YOUR-SELVES OUT.
YOU'VE GOT FREE TIME FROM NOW UNTIL THE OPENING CEREMONY TOMORROW.



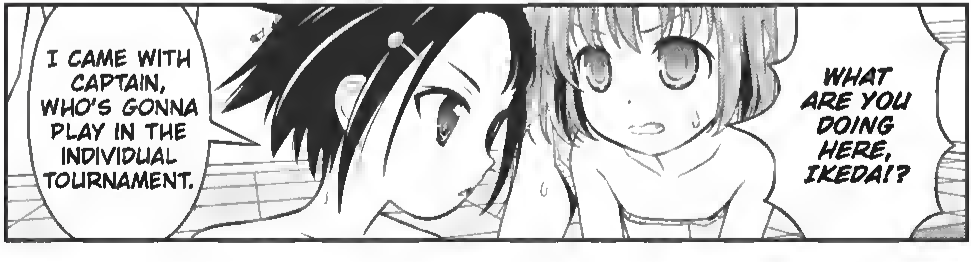
SIGN. BATHHOUSE

YOU SURE LOVE TAKING BATHS, YUKI-CHAN.
WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES HERE, SO KEEP IT DOWN...

KIYOSUMI'S TACO GIRL IS AS NOISY AS EVER.
NOT AS MUCH AS TACOS, THOUGH.
YEAH!
HUH?
YOU JUST RUINED MY HEAVENLY BATHTIME.
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU!?

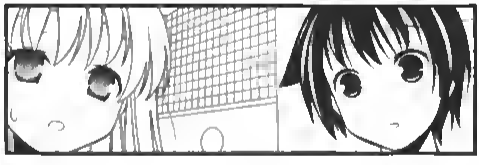
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
BOOM
AAAAAH!

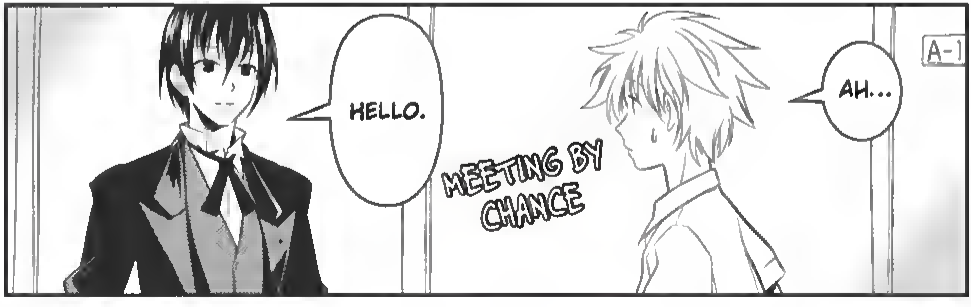
YOU'RE FROM KAZE-KOSHI...
IKEDA OR SOME-THING, RIGHT!?
REMEMBER? WE'RE BOTH VETERANS OF THE BATTLES OVER FOOD AT THE COMBINED TRAINING CAMP. ALSO, I'M A GRADE HIGHER THAN YOU, SO YOU SHOULD SHOW ME SOME RESPECT.


WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, IKEDA!?
I CAME WITH CAPTAIN, WHO'S GONNA PLAY IN THE INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT.

THAT'S RIGHT.
HUH?
THEN MAYBE...
KAZEKOSHI AND KIYOSUMI ARE SHARING A ROOM.
RATTLE

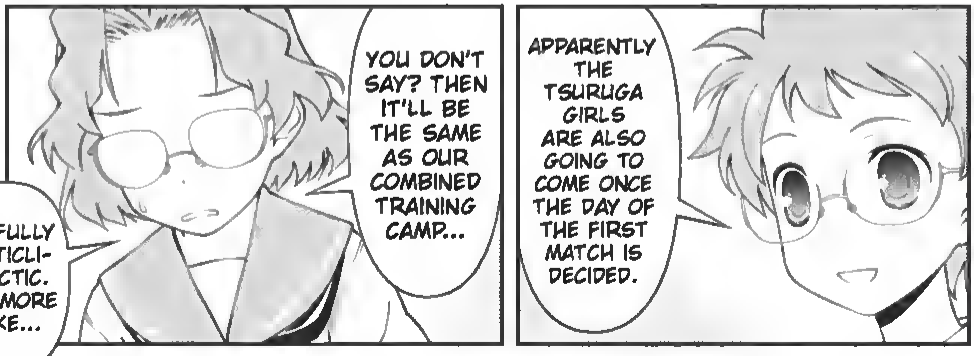
WE HAVE ARRIVED!
KOROMO IS HERE TOO—!
EHHH !?

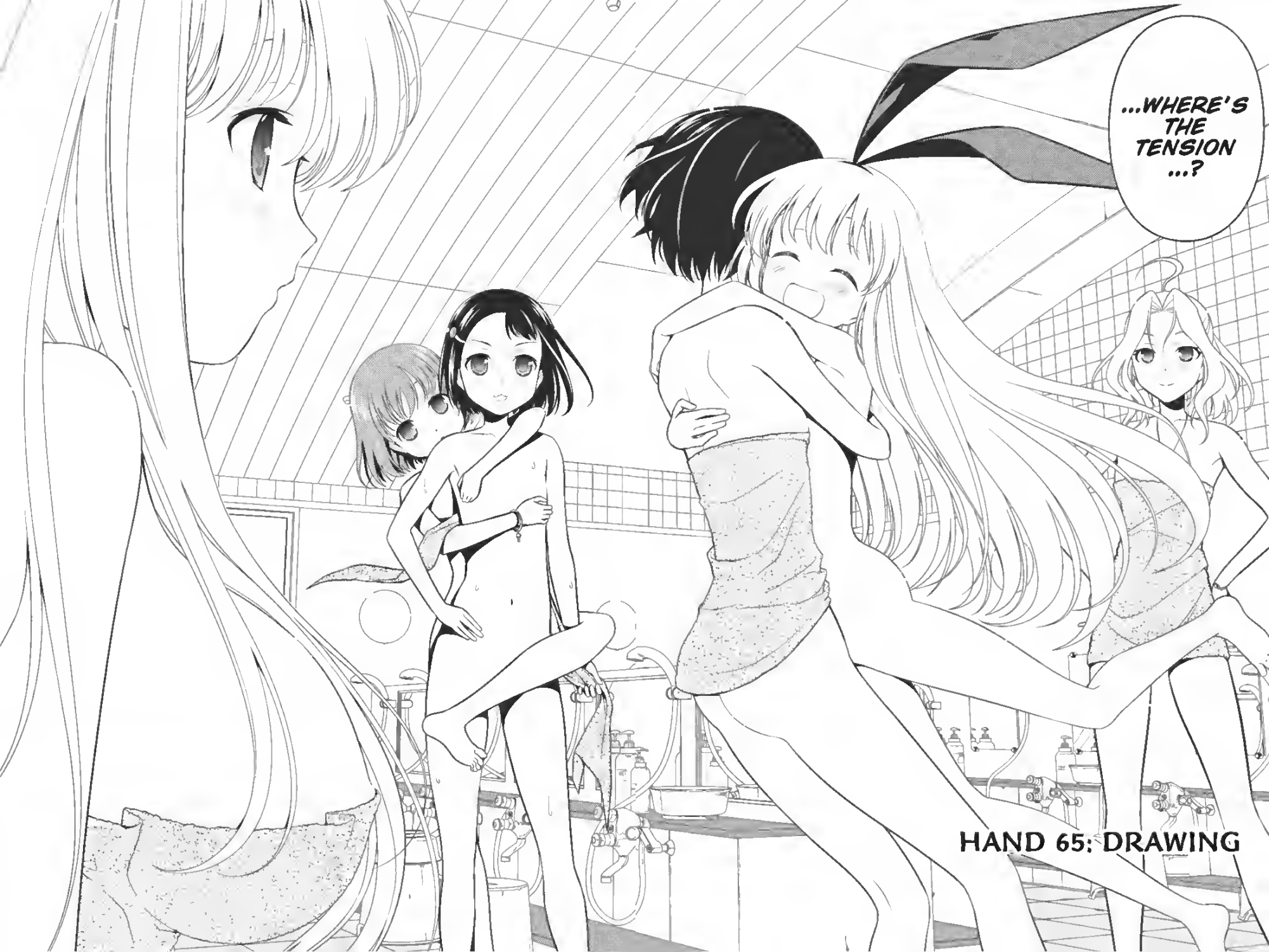



HELLO.
MEETING BY CHANCE
AH...
A-1

HUH ...?
RYUMON-BUCHI IS HERE TOO...?

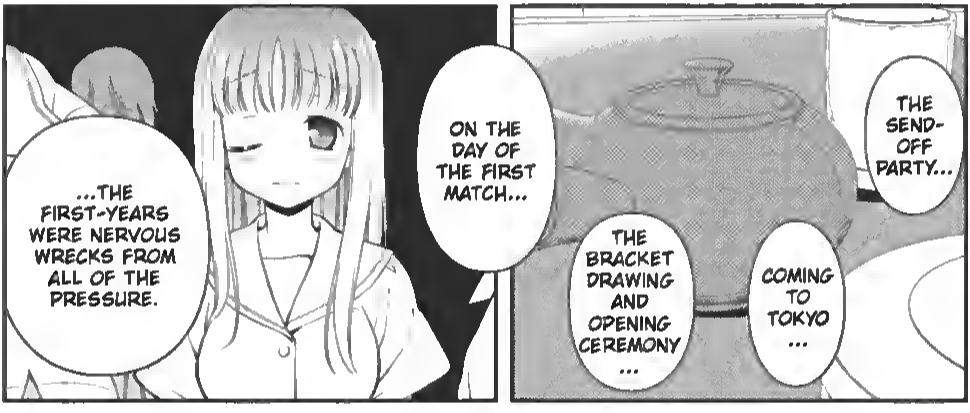
YES.
THEY'RE STAYING AT ANOTHER HOTEL IN SHINJUKU.
GOSH DARN MONEY-BAGS...

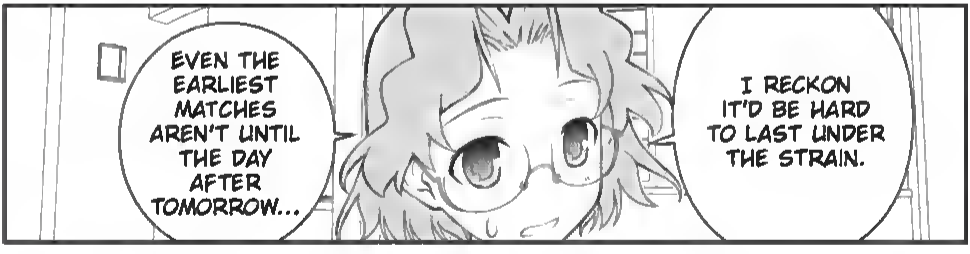

APPARENTLY THE TSURUGA GIRLS ARE ALSO GOING TO COME ONCE THE DAY OF THE FIRST MATCH IS DECIDED.
YOU DON'T SAY? THEN IT'LL BE THE SAME AS OUR COMBINED TRAINING CAMP...
AWFULLY ANTICLI-MACTIC. OR MORE LIKE...



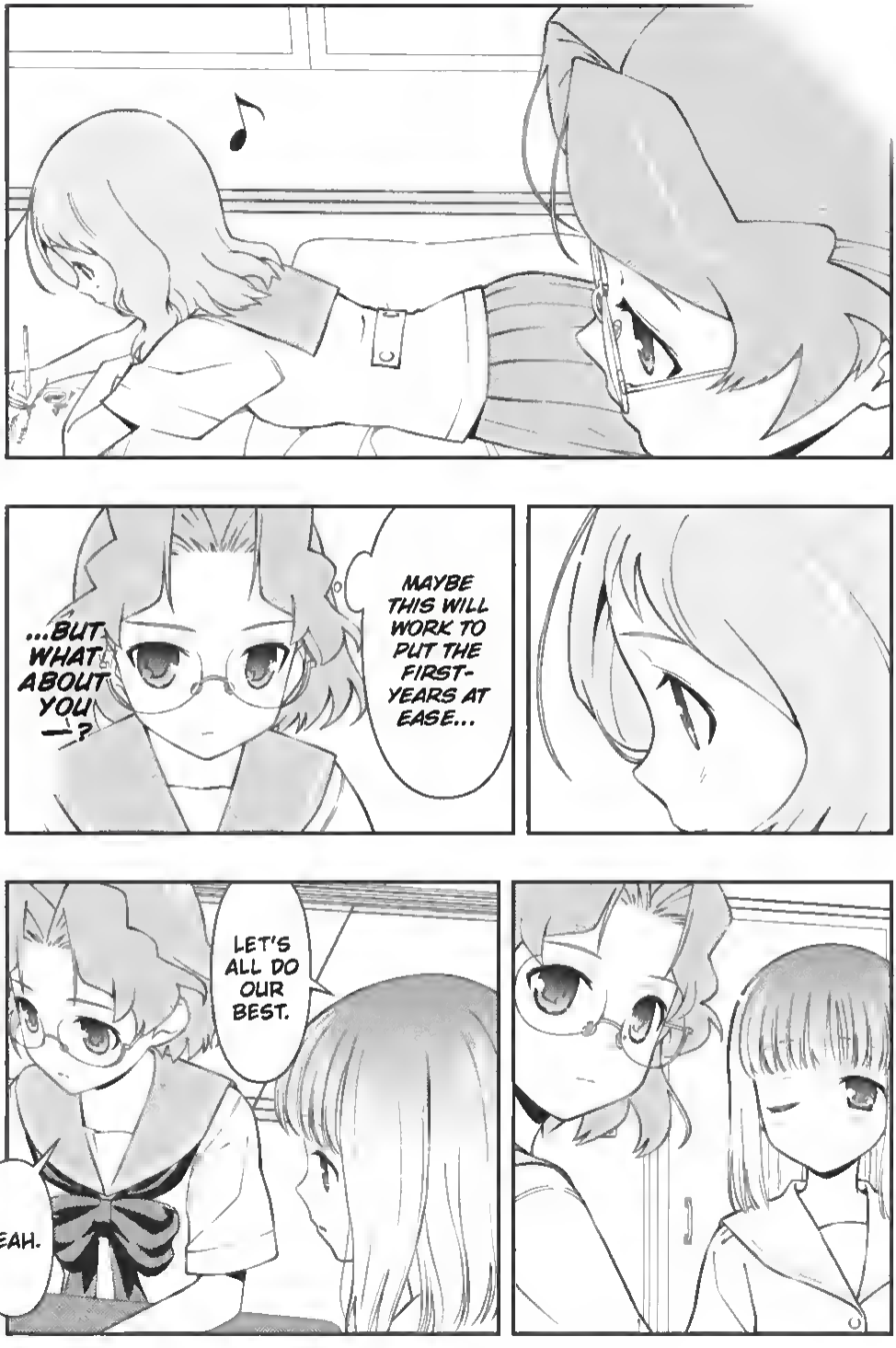
HAND 65: DRAWING

WHEN I WAS A FIRST-YEAR, OUR SENPAI WERE REALLY STRICT...
BUT...I'M A LITTLE ENVIOUS.


...THE FIRST-YEARS WERE NERVOUS WRECKS FROM ALL OF THE PRESSURE.
ON THE DAY OF THE FIRST MATCH...
THE BRACKET DRAWING AND OPENING CEREMONY ...
COMING TO TOKYO ...
THE SEND-OFF PARTY...


EVEN THE EARLIEST MATCHES AREN'T UNTIL THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW...
I RECKON IT'D BE HARD TO LAST UNDER THE STRAIN.

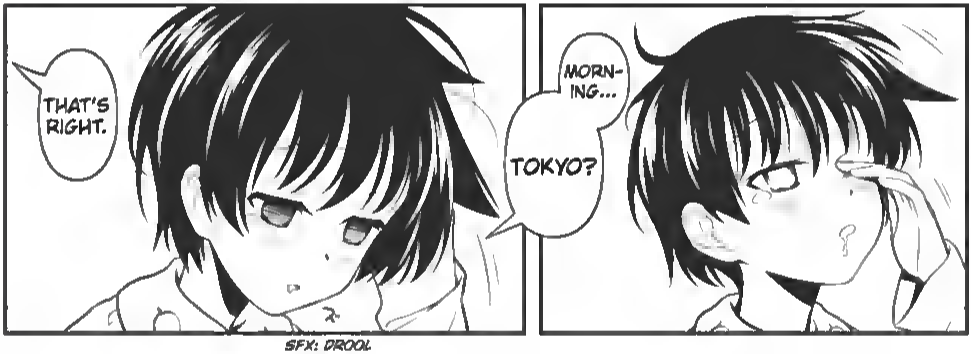
IT COULD BE EVEN WORSE IF YOU INTEND TO MAKE IT TO FINALS.


MAYBE THIS WILL WORK TO PUT THE FIRST-YEARS AT EASE...
...BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU—?
LET'S ALL DO OUR BEST.
YEAH.

LET'S PAY HER A VISIT LATER.
SIP
ズズ
IN D WING, IN A SPECIALLY DESIGNATED ROOM FOR COACHES.
UM ...
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHERE'S COACH?
NOT AT ALL.
I DON'T MIND, AS LONG AS IT'S JUST THIS YEAR.
I SEE... SORRY FOR FOISTING ALL OF THAT ON YOU.
HEH!
NEXT YEAR, EVERY-BODY'S GOING!
MM?

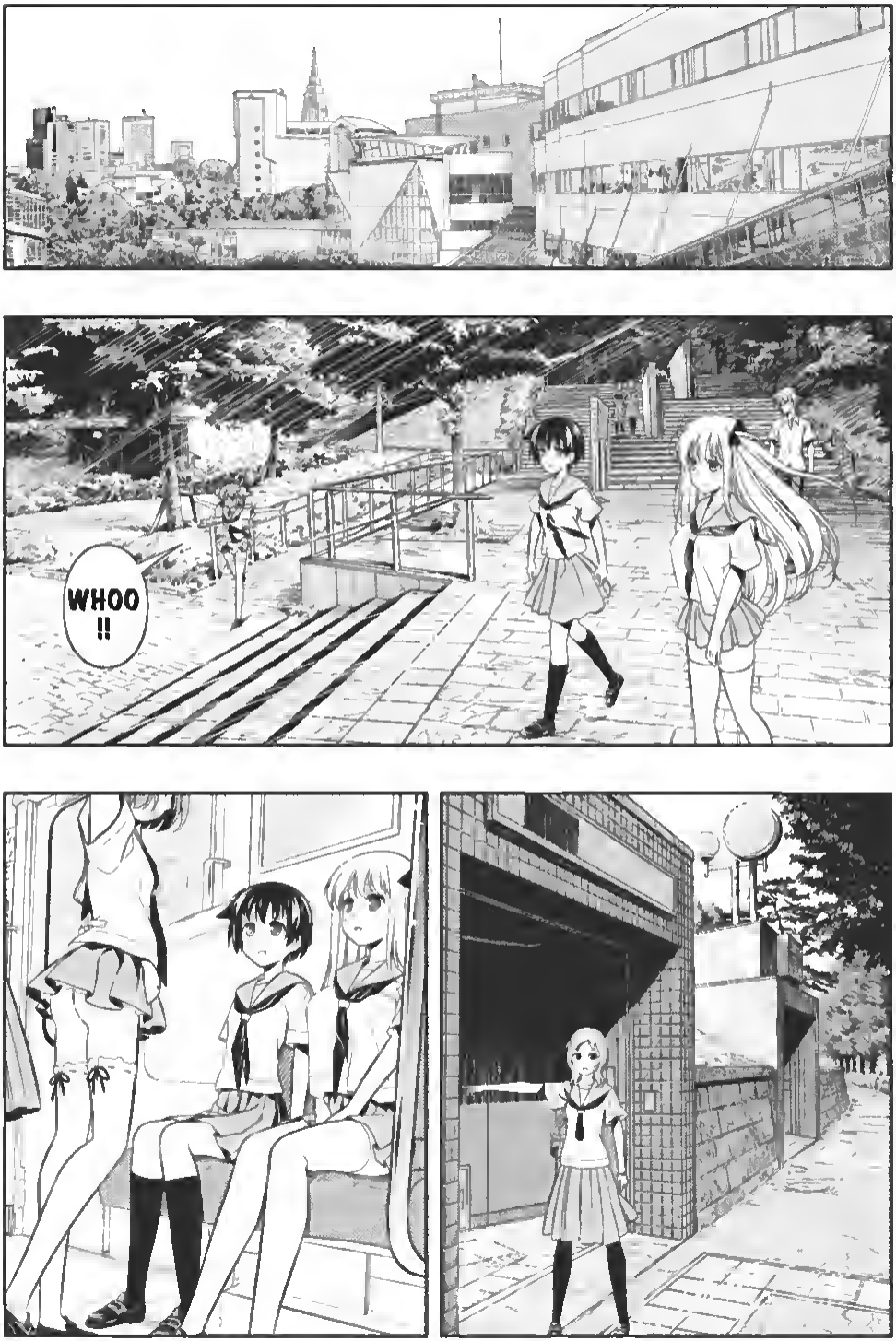
HELL, BUNDO...
...YOU GET THE PICTURE!
TREMBLE
わそ
TREMBLE
わそ
.....
THUD
THUD
TWITCH
ぴく

OH!
SAKI-CHAN'S UP!
.....


THAT'S RIGHT.
MORN-ING...
TOKYO?

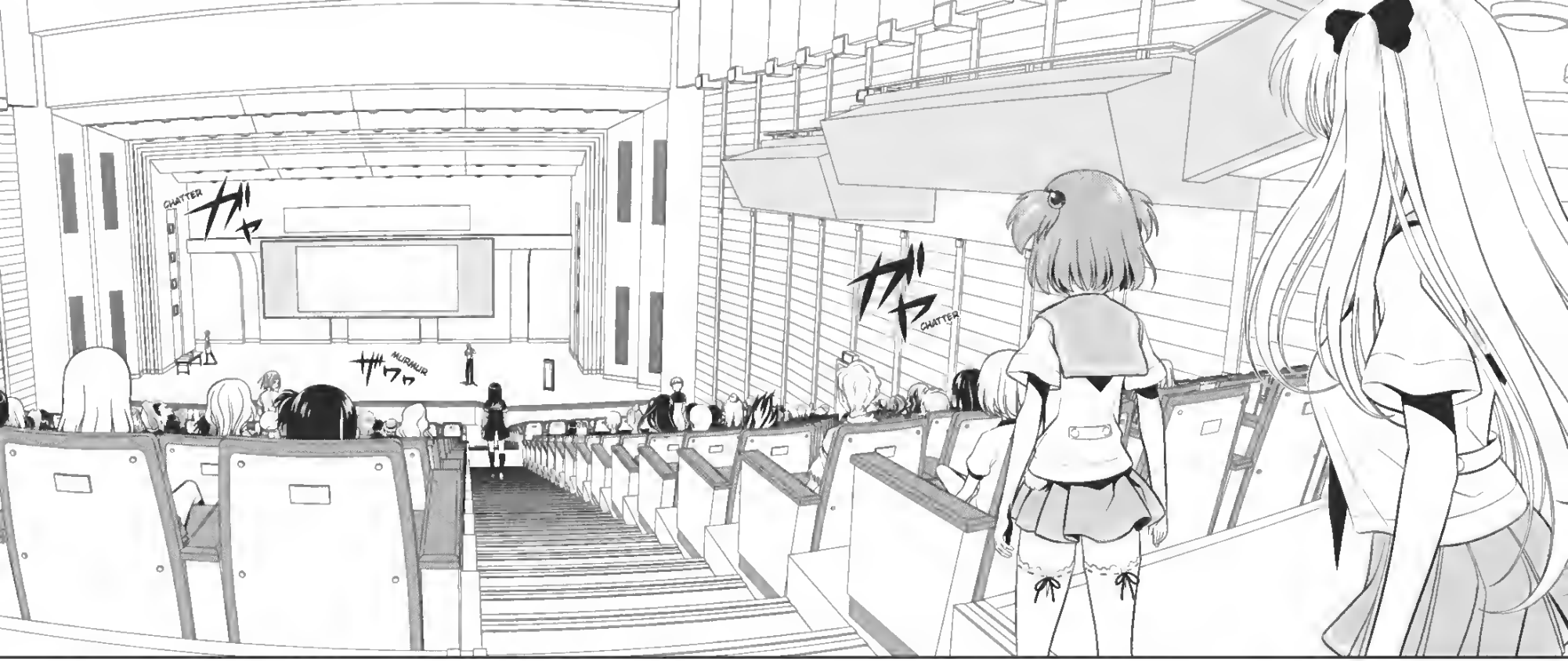
SFX: DROOL

OH RIGHT!
AH... OKAY!
SO HURRY UP AND GET READY.
AND THE BRACKET DRAWING STARTS AT NINE.


WHOO
!!

I CAN SEE A MOAT AND A STONE WALL... IS THAT A CASTLE!?
WHOA!
MM-HM.
REALLY?
NOW IT'S A PUBLIC PARK.
I BELIEVE IT WAS, A LONG TIME AGO.
EH ...?
IF THERE'S TIME.
IF WE'RE ALLOWED IN, LET'S GO THERE LATER!

THAT'S BECAUSE WE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE HOTEL YESTER-DAY...
I FINALLY FEEL LIKE WE'RE ACTUALLY IN TOKYO.
YEAH.
ゴオオオオ
ROAR


CHATTER
ガヤ
MURMUR
ガヤ
CHATTER

ゴゥン
RUMBLE
WHIMPER
ゴゥン
RUMBLE
WHERE AM I...?

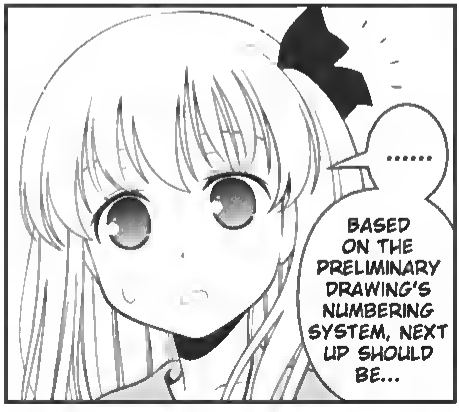
SHE GOT LOST AGAIN ...?

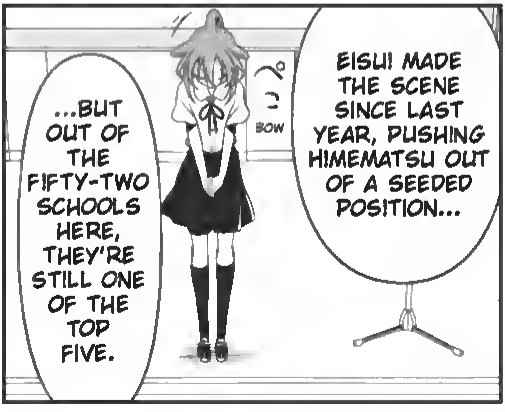
AH!!
HUH? WHERE'S SAKI-CHAN?
EH...? DON'T TELL ME...

38
South Osaka, Himematsu High School, #38!
ROAR

FIRST OF ALL, IT'S AWFULLY WEIRD HIMEMATSU ISN'T SEEDED.

CHEER
SOUNDS LIKE A BIG DEAL...
IT IS.


.....
BASED ON THE PRELIMINARY DRAWING'S NUMBERING SYSTEM, NEXT UP SHOULD BE...


EISU! MADE THE SCENE SINCE LAST YEAR, PUSHING HIMEMATSU OUT OF A SEEDED POSITION...
ペコ
BOW
...BUT OUT OF THE FIFTY-TWO SCHOOLS HERE, THEY'RE STILL ONE OF THE TOP FIVE.

THAT'S UNUSUAL ...
OUR CAPTAIN'S STIFF AS A BOARD!
トテ TROT
From Nagano, Kiyosumi High School—
トテ TROT
SILENCE
I GUESS THAT'S NATURAL.
UNLIKE WITH HIMEMATSU, THE CROWD'S NOT MAKING ANY NOISE FOR US...
33
#33 !!
YIKES ...
!
HUH...? #33?
THEN...

WE'RE IN THE SAME BLOCK AS HIMEMATSU HIGH SCHOOL, A CROWD FAVORITE...
...AND THE THIRD SEED...
...EISUI GIRLS' ...!

ゴォ
ROAR
We're at the National High School Mahjong Tournament!
All of the numbers have been drawn...
CHEER
関係者以外
立入禁止
Staff Only
...and the last slots in the tournament table are filled!!
This ...
CLAP CLAP

Which school will stand at the top—!?

71st National High School Mahjong Tournament

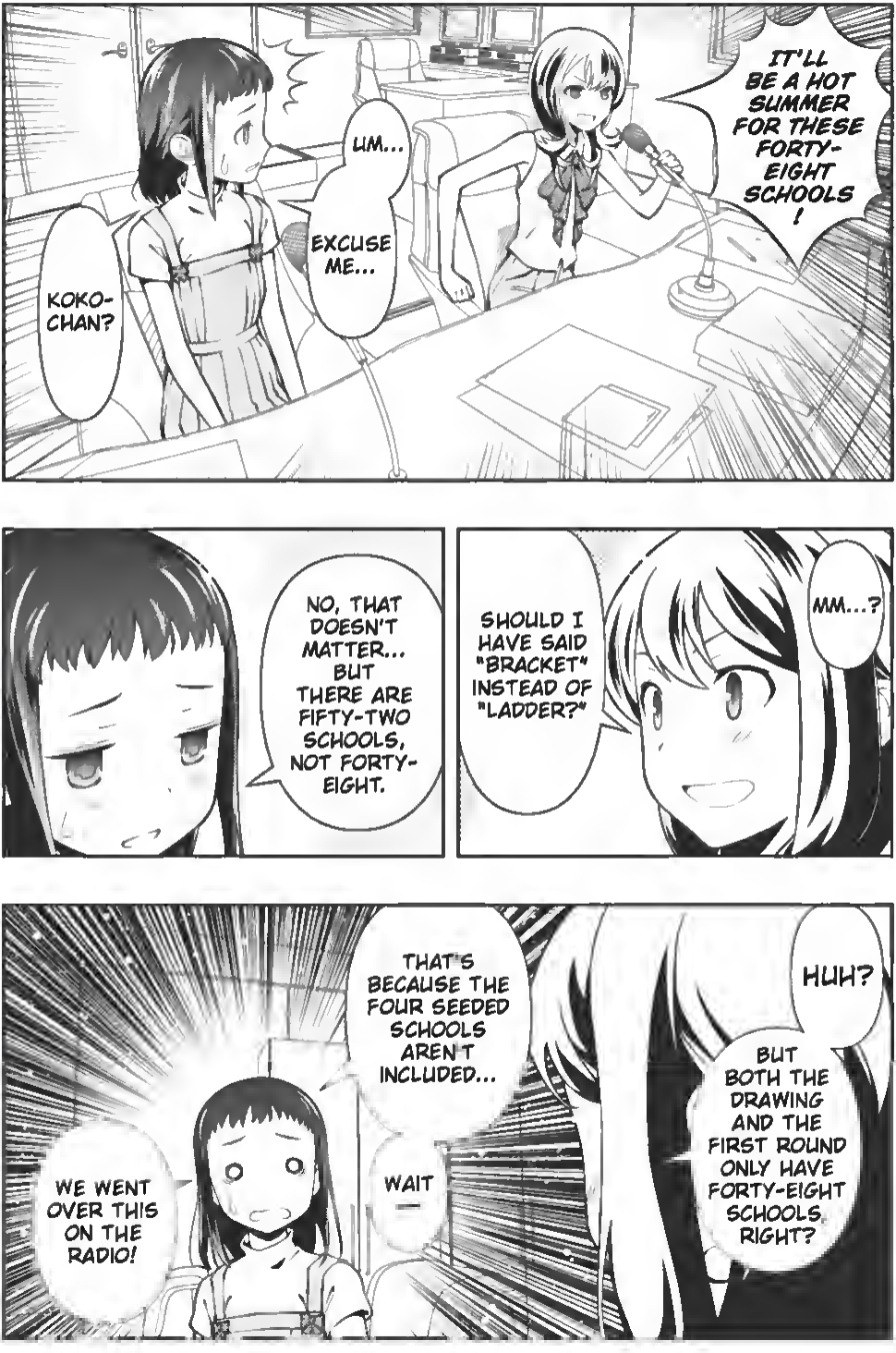
Shiraitodai (West Tokyo) 1
Kasubuchi (Shimane) 2
Oriwatari Two (Akita) 3
Shindoji Girls' (Fukuoka) 4
Horigome Girls' (Tochigi) 5
Kariyasuka (West Aichi) 6
Kuragano (Gunma) 7
Konoura (Kumamoto) 8
Moema (North Hokkaido) 9
Kankaji (Oita) 10
Kobarinishi (Niigata) 11
Orono (Tokushima) 12
Kyrana Institute (South Kanagawa) 13
Neshiko Girls' (Nagasaki) 14
Chibiki Academy (Aomori) 16
Tomino (Shiga) 16
Koshigaya Girls' (Saitama) 17
Ojoin Girls' (Ehime) 18
Omika Commercial (Ibaraki) 19
Kentani (Hyogo) 20
Yui Girls' Institute (Shizuoka) 21
Sanomo (Okayama) 22
Urabandai (Fukushima) 23
Achiga Girls' (Nara) 24
Imizu General (Toyama) 25
Senriyama Girls' (North Osaka) 26

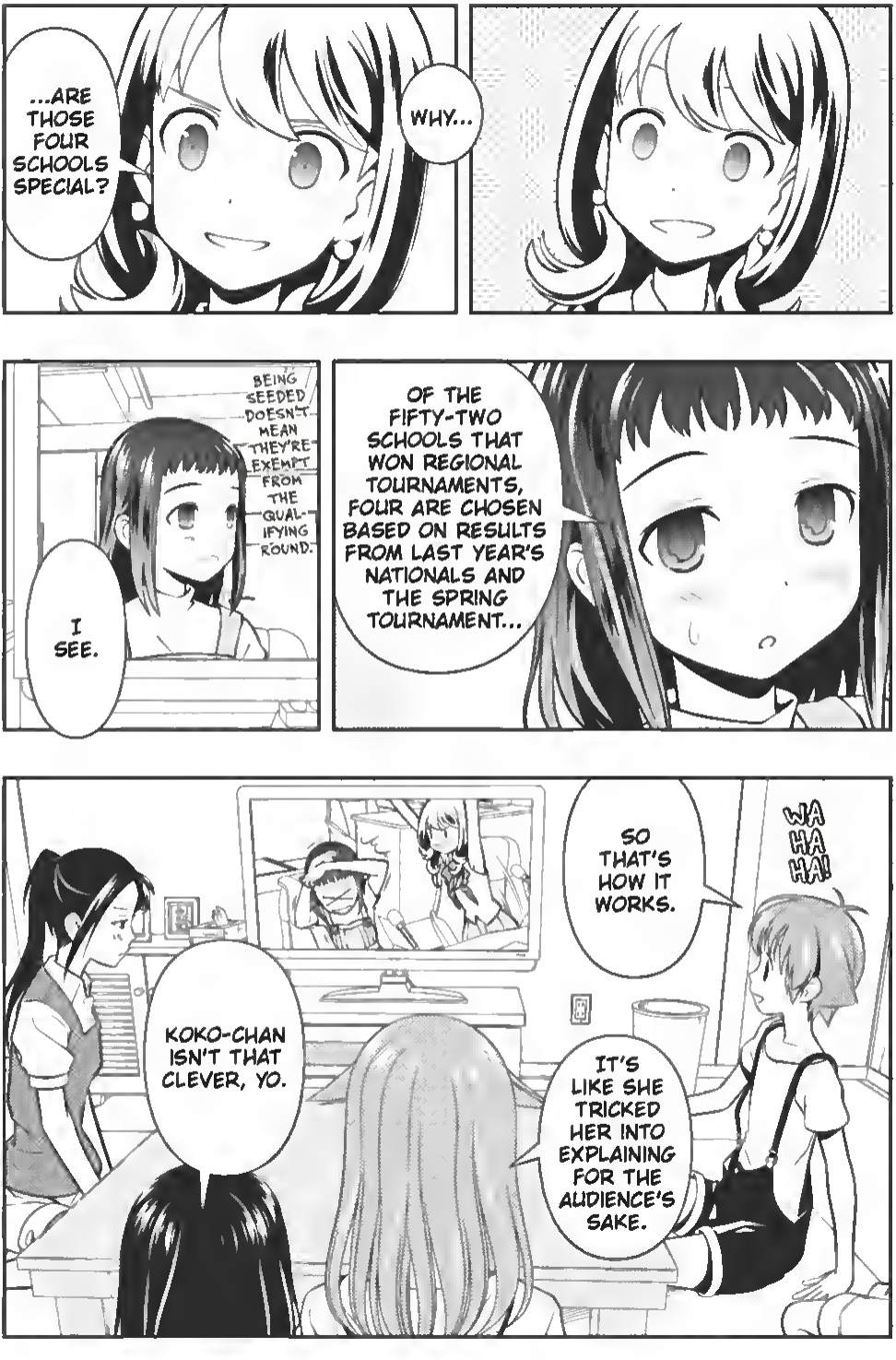
1A 2A 2B 2C 1B 1C 5A 58 7A 9A 8A 6A 3A 3B 3C 4A 4B 4C 6B

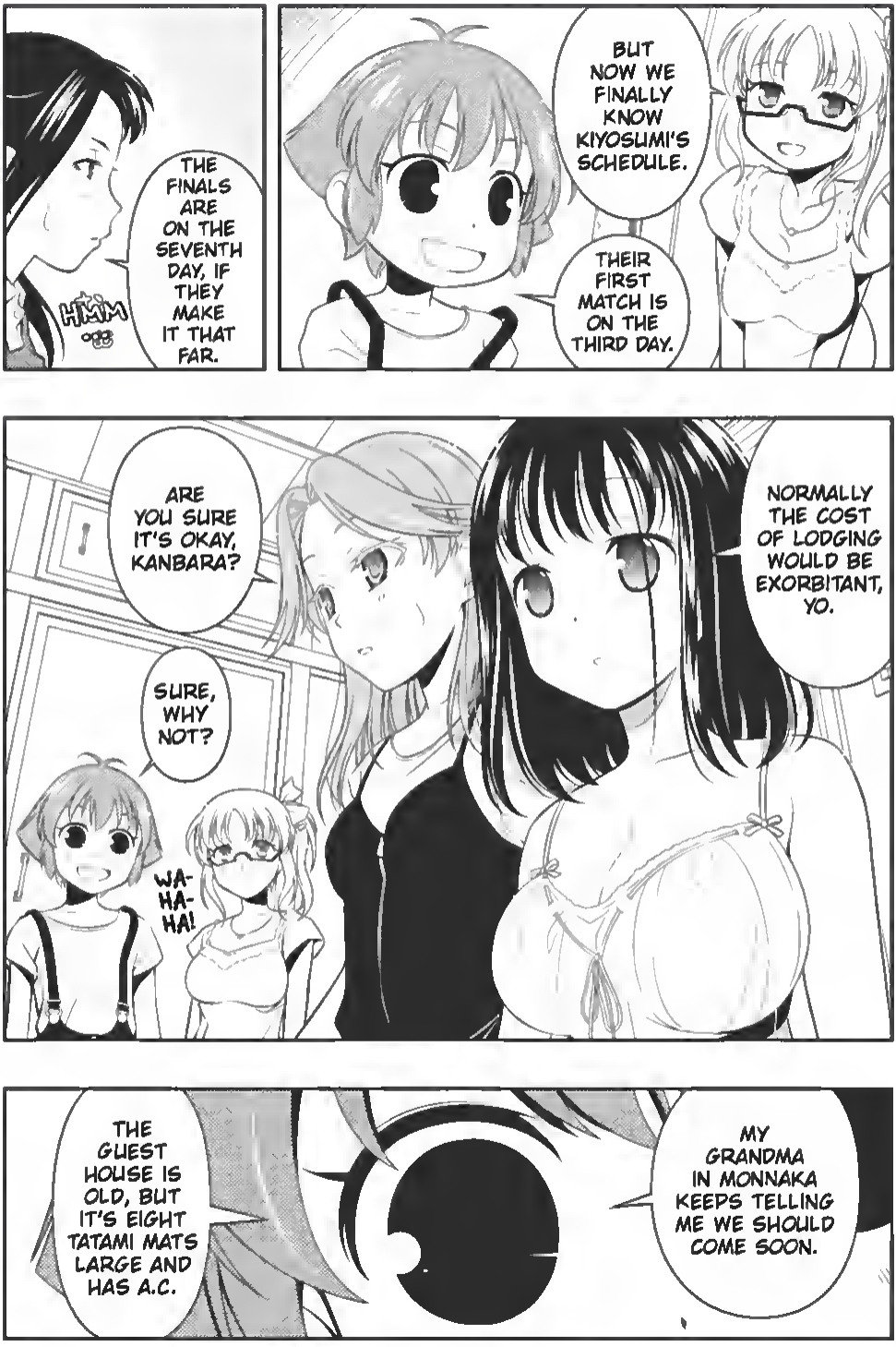
27 Eisui Girls' (Kagoshima)
28 Makabi (Okinawa)
29 Miyamori Girls' (Iwate)
30 Ihonosho (Yamaguchi)
31 Tateyama Commercial (Chiba)
32 Nogomi (Saga)
33 Kiyosumi (Nagano)
34 Chiyomi (Tottori)
35 Kogasaki Commercial (Fukui)
36 Karoto (Hiroshima)
37 Hida Commercial (Gifu)
38 Himematsu (South Osaka)
39 Kuratsuki (Ishikawa)
40 Chojano (Kochi)
41 Tsugu (East Aichi)
42 Yamasu (Kyoto)
43 Mangokura (Miyagi)
44 Koshino (Miyazaki)
45 Higashi-Hakuraku (North Kanagawa)
46 Wabuka (Wakayama)
47 Tendo Affiliated (Yamagata)
48 Kotonami (Kagawa)
49 Usuzan (South Hokkaido)
50 Ukizato (Mie)
51 Suzurishima (Yamanashi)
52 Rinkai Girls' (East Tokyo)

...is the ladder of fate!!

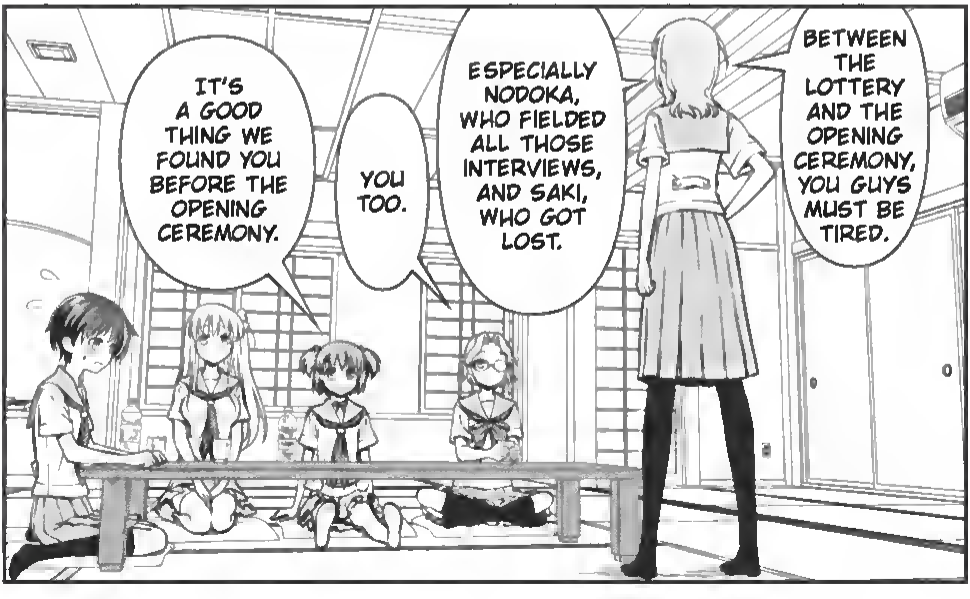
HAND 66: BREAK


IT'LL BE A HOT SUMMER FOR THESE FORTY-EIGHT SCHOOLS!
UM...
EXCUSE ME...
KOKO-CHAN?
MM...?
SHOULD I HAVE SAID "BRACKET" INSTEAD OF "LADDER?"
NO, THAT DOESN'T MATTER... BUT THERE ARE FIFTY-TWO SCHOOLS, NOT FORTY-EIGHT.
HUH?
BUT BOTH THE DRAWING AND THE FIRST ROUND ONLY HAVE FORTY-EIGHT SCHOOLS, RIGHT?
THAT'S BECAUSE THE FOUR SEEDED SCHOOLS AREN'T INCLUDED...
WAIT —
WE WENT OVER THIS ON THE RADIO!


...ARE THOSE FOUR SCHOOLS SPECIAL?
WHY...
BEING SEEDED DOESN'T MEAN THEY'RE EXEMPT FROM THE QUALIFYING ROUND.
I SEE.
OF THE FIFTY-TWO SCHOOLS THAT WON REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS, FOUR ARE CHOSEN BASED ON RESULTS FROM LAST YEAR'S NATIONALS AND THE SPRING TOURNAMENT...
KOKO-CHAN ISN'T THAT CLEVER, YO.
IT'S LIKE SHE TRICKED HER INTO EXPLAINING FOR THE AUDIENCE'S SAKE.
SO THAT'S HOW IT WORKS.
WA HA HA!


THE FINALS ARE ON THE SEVENTH DAY, IF THEY MAKE IT THAT FAR.
HMM
BUT NOW WE FINALLY KNOW KIYOSUMI'S SCHEDULE.
THEIR FIRST MATCH IS ON THE THIRD DAY.
ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY, KANBARA?
SURE, WHY NOT?
WA-HA-HA!
NORMALLY THE COST OF LODGING WOULD BE EXORBITANT, YO.
THE GUEST HOUSE IS OLD, BUT IT'S EIGHT TATAMI MATS LARGE AND HAS A.C.
MY GRANDMA IN MONNAKA KEEPS TELLING ME WE SHOULD COME SOON.

WE OWE YOU FOR THIS, KANBARA.
NOW WE JUST HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT FOOD.
WA-HA-HA!


IT'S A GOOD THING WE FOUND YOU BEFORE THE OPENING CEREMONY.
YOU TOO.
ESPECIALLY NODOKA, WHO FIELDED ALL THOSE INTERVIEWS, AND SAKI, WHO GOT LOST.
BETWEEN THE LOTTERY AND THE OPENING CEREMONY, YOU GUYS MUST BE TIRED.

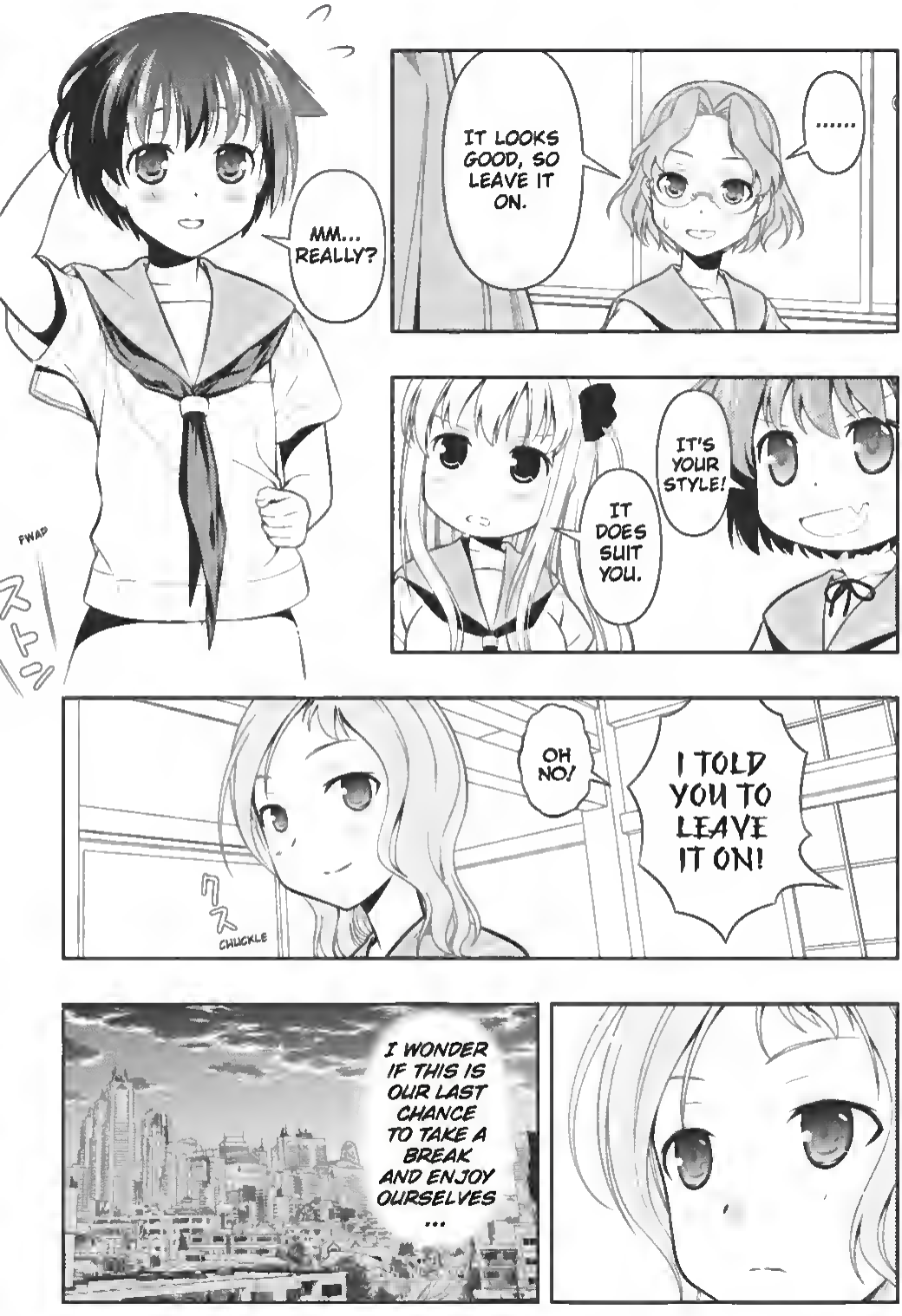
OUR FIRST MATCH IS ON THE THIRD DAY, SO WE'RE FREE TOMORROW AND THE DAY AFTER.
TO KEEP OURSELVES FROM SLACKING OFF AND LOSING FOCUS DURING THAT TIME, WE WILL BE DOING MINIMAL TUNE-UPS...
...BUT WE'RE TAKING A BREAK TOMORROW MORNING.

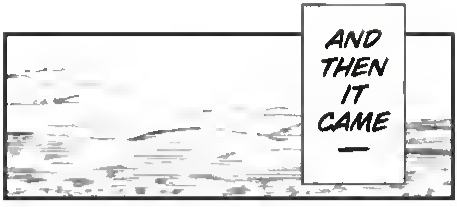
YOU CAN WATCH THE OPENING MATCHES OR GO SIGHT-SEEING.
OR SLEEP IN.
OR EAT TACOS FOR LUNCH AT A MEXICAN RESTAURANT ...

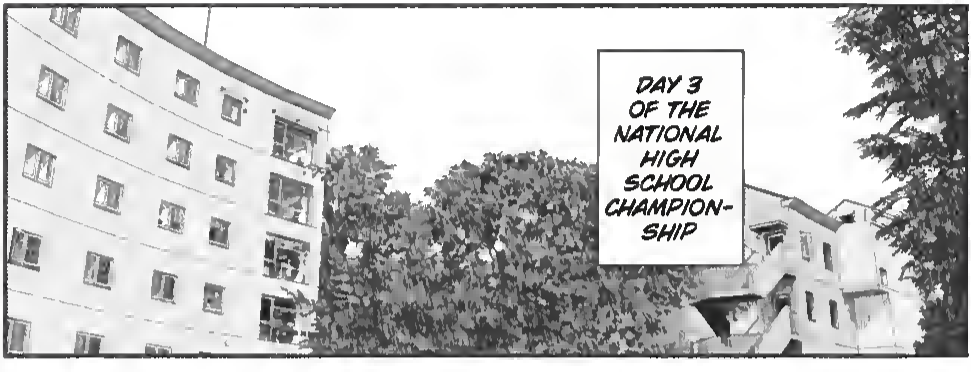
EH...? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I WAS IN SUCH A RUSH AND STILL SLEEPY THIS MORNING THAT I ACCIDENTALLY PUT YOURS ON.
カチャチャ
HERCHAK

AH...
THAT'S RIGHT .....
I HAVE TO RETURN YOUR SKIRT, SOMEYA-SENPAI.
ガク

SFX: RATTLE

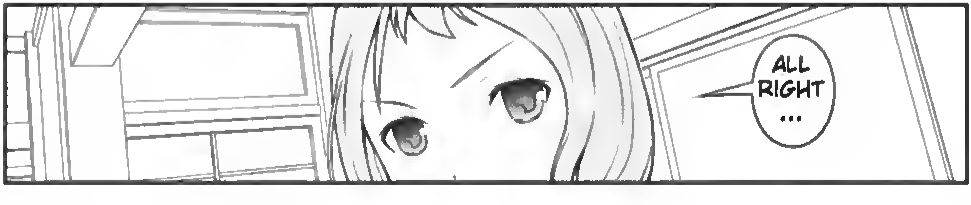

MM... REALLY?
FWAP
IT LOOKS GOOD, SO LEAVE IT ON.
.....
IT DOES SUIT YOU.
IT'S YOUR STYLE!
OH NO!
I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE IT ON!
CHUCKLE
I WONDER IF THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE TO TAKE A BREAK AND ENJOY OURSELVES ...


AND THEN IT CAME —


DAY 3 OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPION-SHIP

WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?
...BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT SCHOOL UNIFORMS HANGING UP IN THE CLOSET OF A HOTEL OR INN THAT DEPRESSES ME.

HMM... I HAD THE SAME FEELING AT OUR TRAINING CAMP...

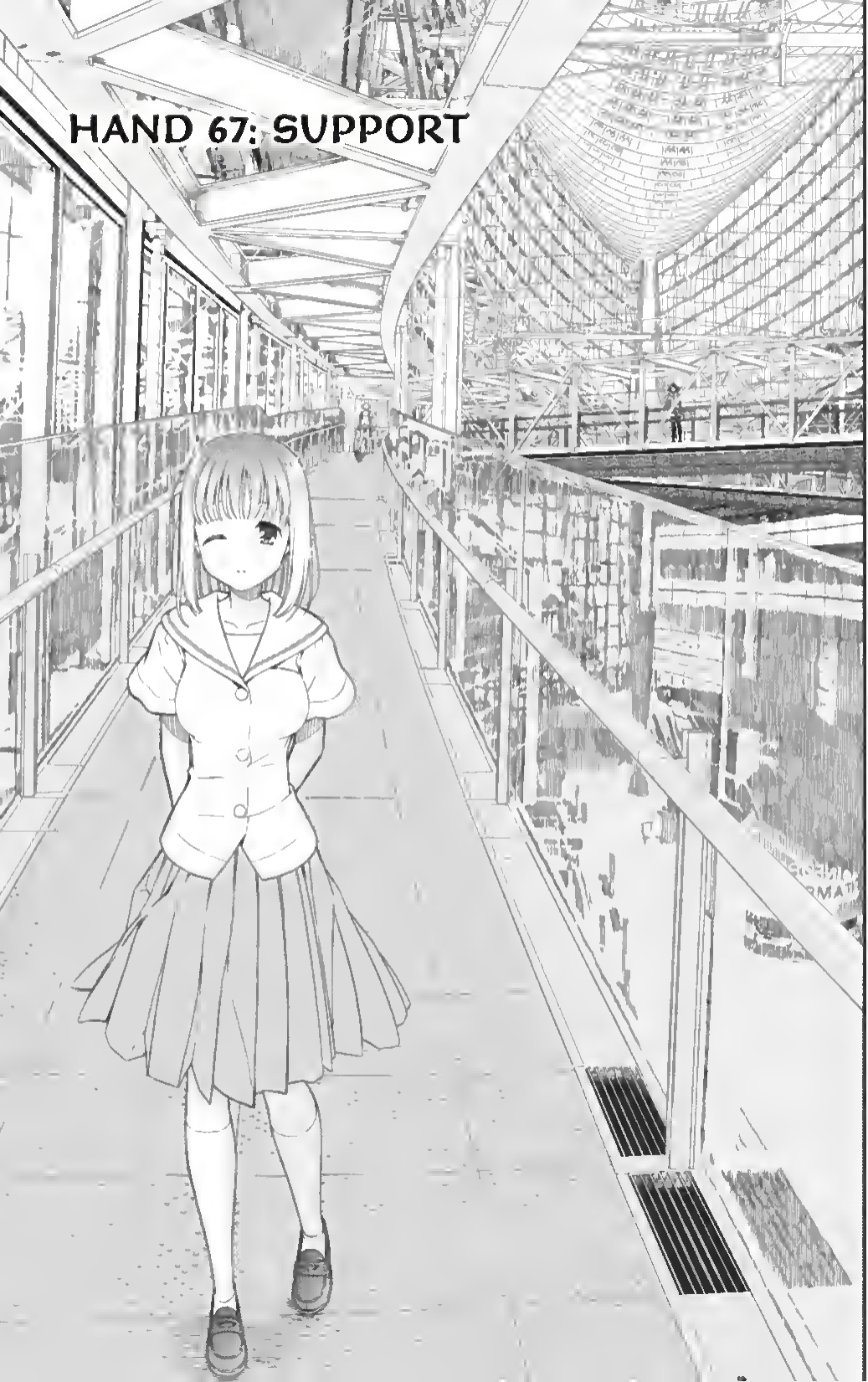

ALL RIGHT ...

RISE AND SHINE!
WE'RE MAKING OUR NATIONALS DEBUT!
URGH...
HRR ...

COME TO THINK OF IT...
...SINCE WE'RE IN TOKYO, DON'T YOU WANT TO GO SEE YOUR SISTER?
MM ...

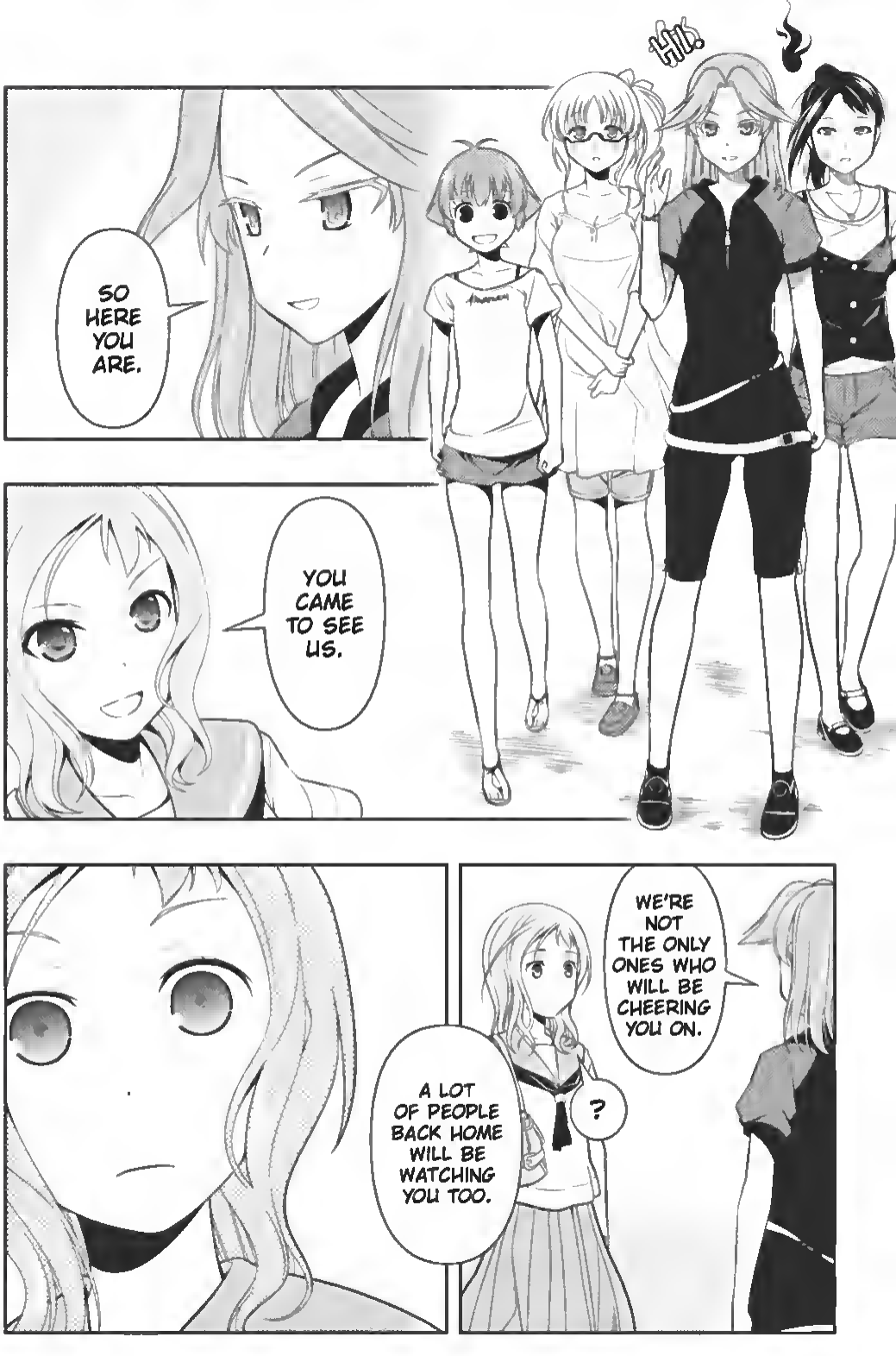
YEAH.
ALTHOUGH THE LAST TIME I SAW HER, SHE WOULD BARELY TALK TO ME.
I HAVE A FEELING I'LL BE ABLE TO TALK TO MY SISTER THROUGH MAHJONG!
THAT'S RIGHT...
I LOOKED AT THE MATCH-UPS...
...AND MY SISTER'S SCHOOL... IS ON THE OPPOSITE BLOCK.

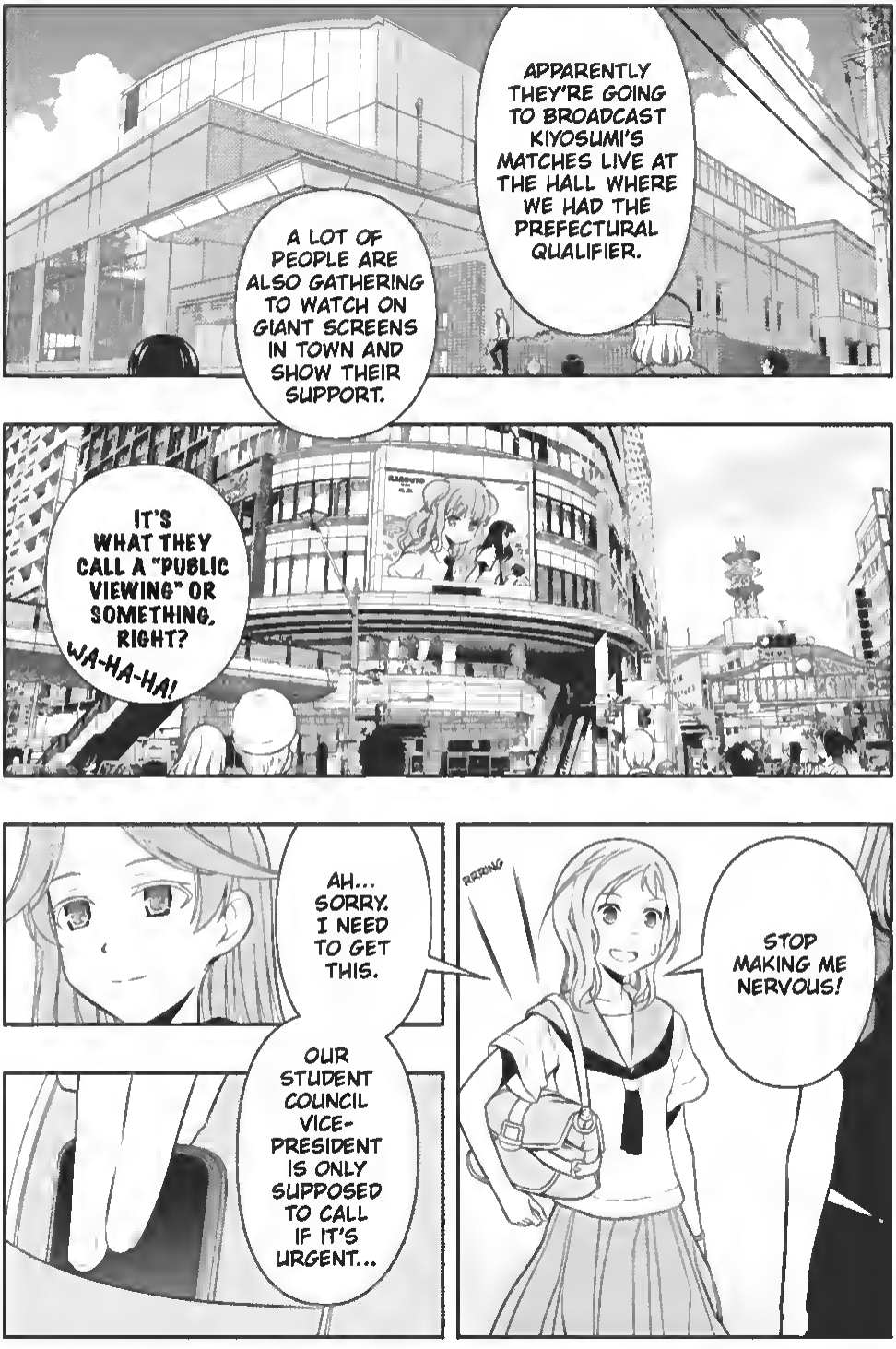
I CAN'T FIGHT HER UNLESS WE GET TO THE FINALS...
...SO I'LL...
RUMBLE
ゴゴゴ
...TAKE 'EM ALL DOWN!!

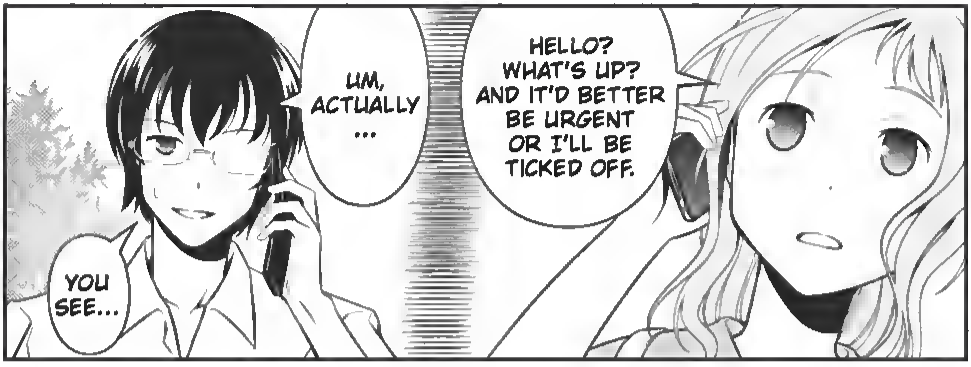

HAND 67: SUPPORT

ゴォ
ROAR
WOW...
IT'S SO BIG, I FEEL LIKE I COULD GET LOST AGAIN...
IF YOU DO, JUST FIND YOUR WAY BACK BEFORE THE FIFTH PLAYERS' MATCH, PLEASE...
GUESTS WITH SMALL CHILDREN SHOULD HOLD THEIR CHILD'S HAND AT ALL TIMES.

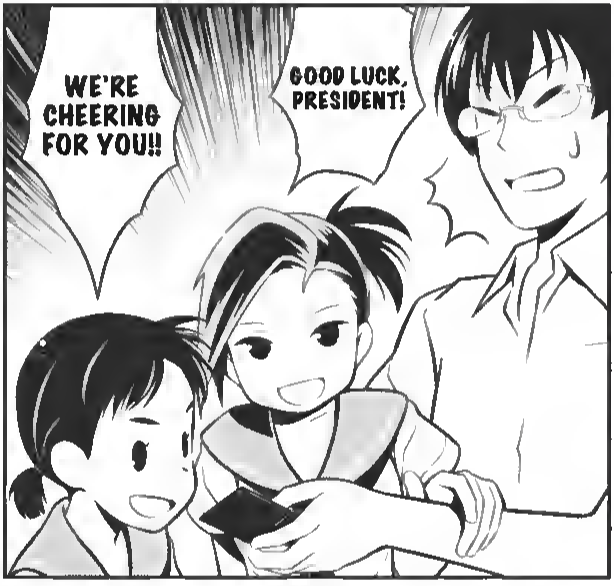
SAKIII! NONO-KAAA!
GOOD LUCK! WIPE 'EM OUT!
KOROMO-CHA... KOROMO-SAN.
NODOKA HARAMURA! IF YOU LOSE, I'M MAKING YOU MY MAID!
WAIT A SEC...
A STRAT-AGEM BEYOND MORTAL MINDS!
THE BEAN-POLE'S SCHOOL!
ME, YOUR MAID? THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE...
HISA...
OH...

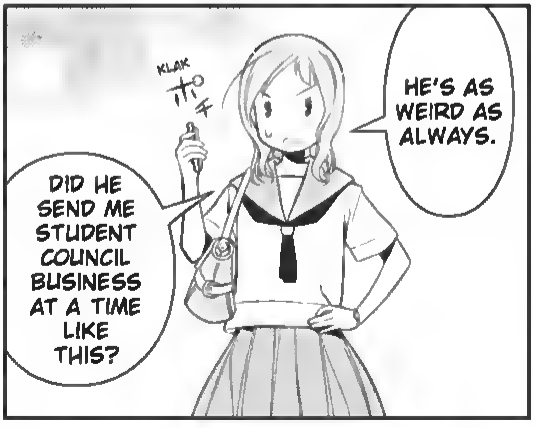

SO HERE YOU ARE.
HI.
YOU CAME TO SEE US.
A LOT OF PEOPLE BACK HOME WILL BE WATCHING YOU TOO.
?
WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO WILL BE CHEERING YOU ON.


APPARENTLY THEY'RE GOING TO BROADCAST KIYOSUMI'S MATCHES LIVE AT THE HALL WHERE WE HAD THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER.
A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE ALSO GATHERING TO WATCH ON GIANT SCREENS IN TOWN AND SHOW THEIR SUPPORT.
IT'S WHAT THEY CALL A "PUBLIC VIEWING" OR SOMETHING, RIGHT? WA-HA-HA!
AH... SORRY. I NEED TO GET THIS.
OUR STUDENT COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT IS ONLY SUPPOSED TO CALL IF IT'S URGENT...
RRRING
STOP MAKING ME NERVOUS!


HELLO? WHAT'S UP? AND IT'D BETTER BE URGENT OR I'LL BE TICKED OFF.
UM, ACTUALLY ...
YOU SEE...

AH...
OKAY. THANKS.


WE'RE CHEERING FOR YOU!!
GOOD LUCK, PRESIDENT!

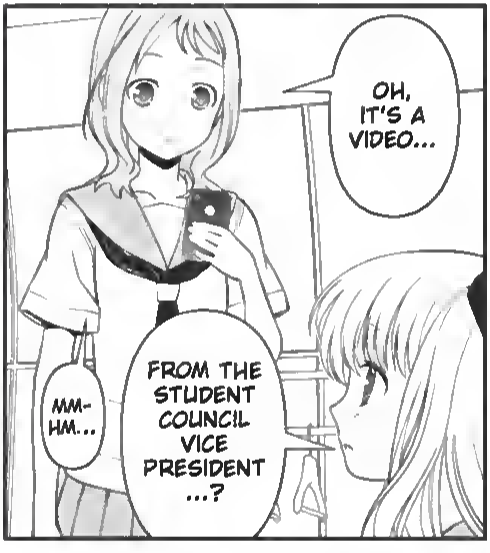

KLAK
HE'S AS WEIRD AS ALWAYS.
DID HE SEND ME STUDENT COUNCIL BUSINESS AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

ANYWAY, I TEXTED YOU A URL.
BYE!

GOOD LUCK!
YO.
THANK YOU.
WELL, WE'RE GONNA TAKE OUR SEATS.
SORRY WE DIDN'T REALLY GET A CHANCE TO TALK.
A
WHOA! OUR WAITING ROOM IS HUGE!
ARE THERE TWELVE ROOMS ALL LIKE THIS...?

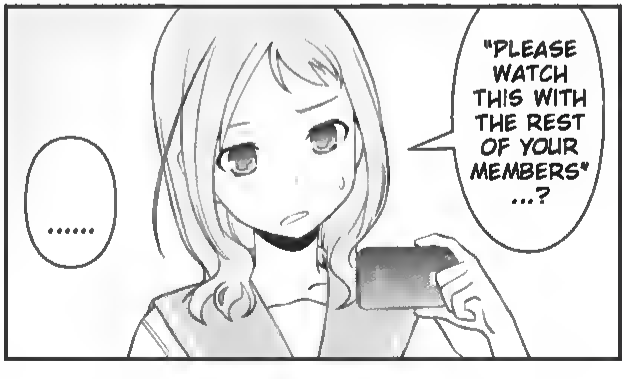
ガバッ
TA-DAA
THESE ARE MY SPECIAL TACOS!!
KYOTARO! WHERE'S THE STUFF!?
R-RIGHT HERE.
THAT'S BECAUSE I'VE BEEN MENTORED BY A SOMEONE IN THE KNOW.
HEH HEH HEH.
YUMMY!
OH!
YOU'VE GOTTEN BETTER!
DURING THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER, YOU ASKED ME TO GET YOU SOME, SO I WOKE UP EARLY TO GO ON A TACO HUNT.
NO...
A MEXICAN?

I MET A GUY WHO DIRECTED ME TO A NEARBY SHOP.
AND FOR SOME REASON, I RAN INTO HIM AGAIN HERE AT THE LODGE, BUT THIS TIME, HE TAUGHT ME HOW TO MAKE DELICIOUS TACOS.


OH, IT'S A VIDEO...
FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT ...?
MM-HM...

YOU WERE LUCKY TO FIND A GOOD TEACHER LIKE THAT.
ACTUALLY, THAT GUY CAN DO ANYTHING...

OKAY.
CLUNK
コト


"PLEASE WATCH THIS WITH THE REST OF YOUR MEMBERS" ...?
.....

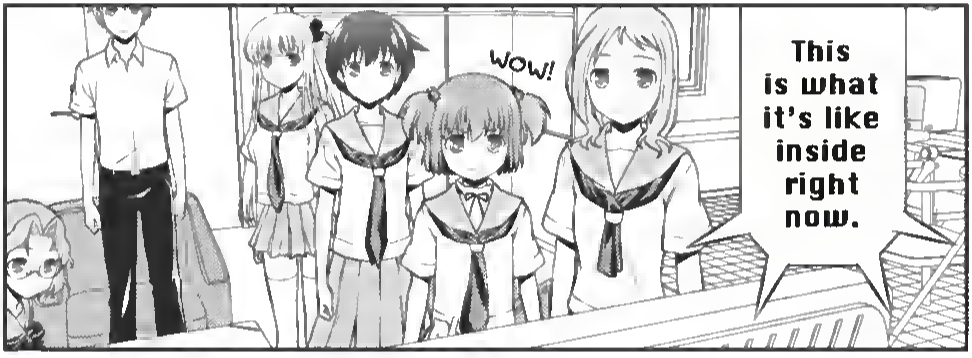
EH ...?
NO WAY!
IS IT PORN?
WILL THIS WORK?

Uh...
THE VICE PREZ!
AH, THERE IT IS.

OH.
...but after winning the prefectural qualifier, the Kiyosumi Mahjong Club has gotten a lot more fans among our students and their parents.

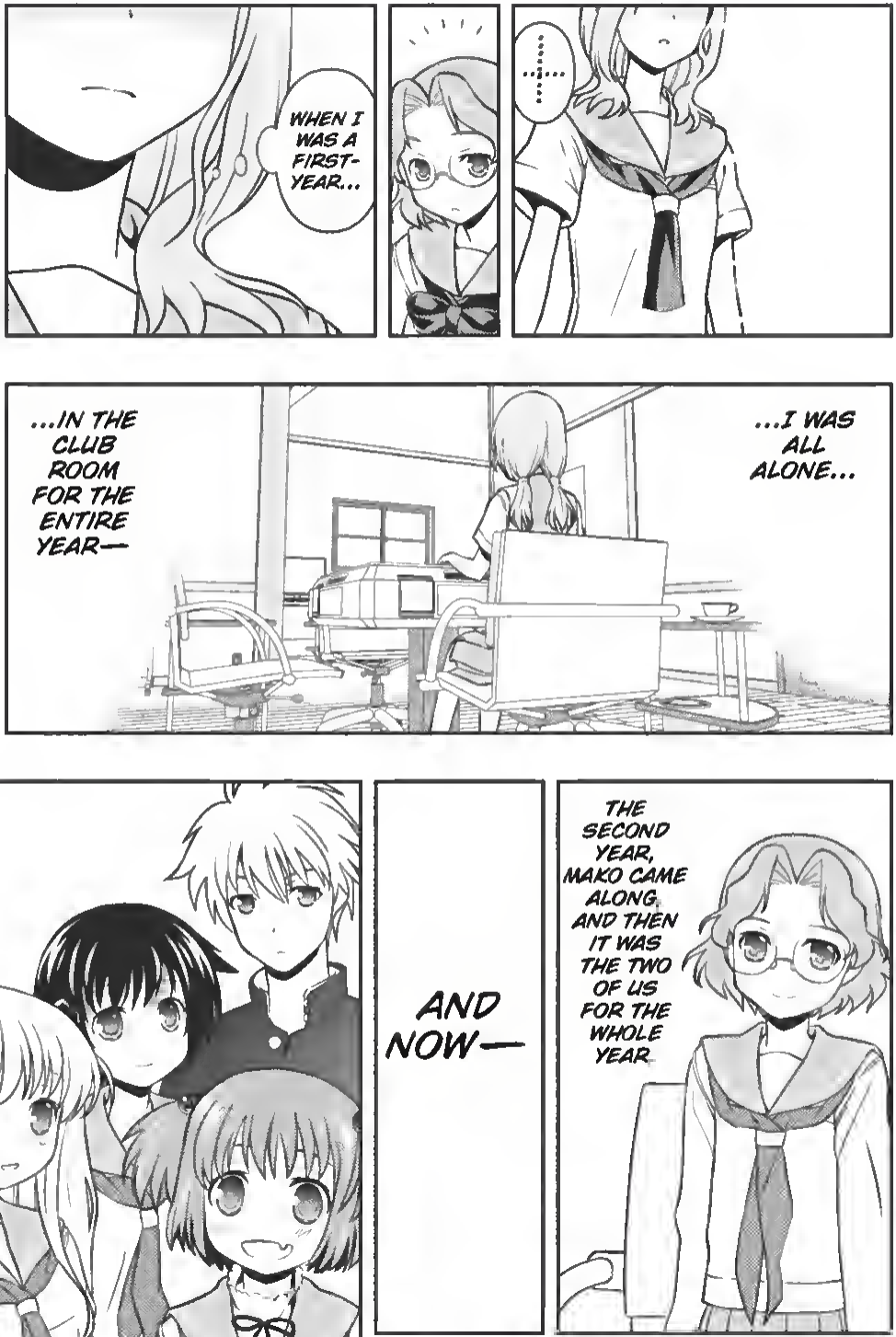
Um, President, I know you said you didn't want a cheering section or a send-off party...

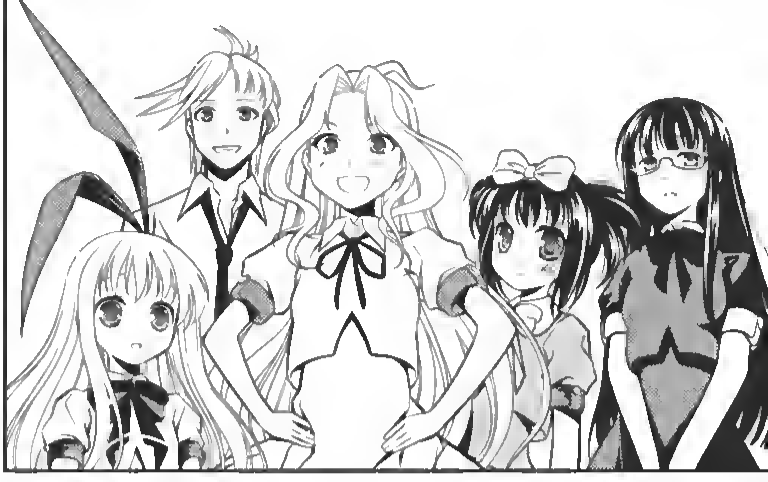
...to hold a cheering event.
So today we're using Kiyosumi's gym...

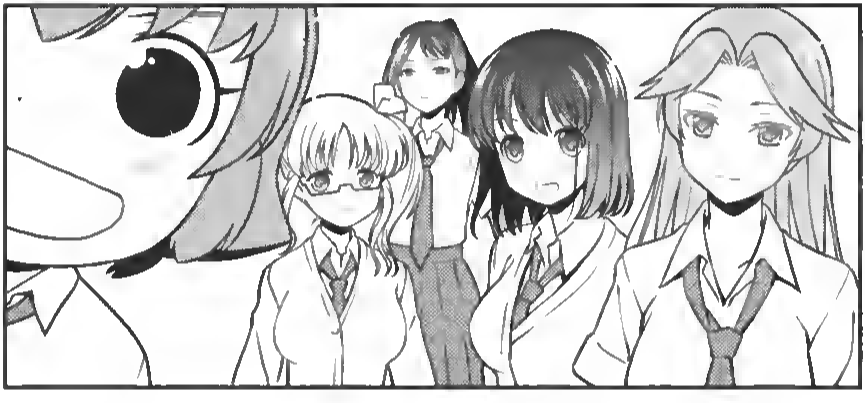

WOW!
This is what it's like inside right now.

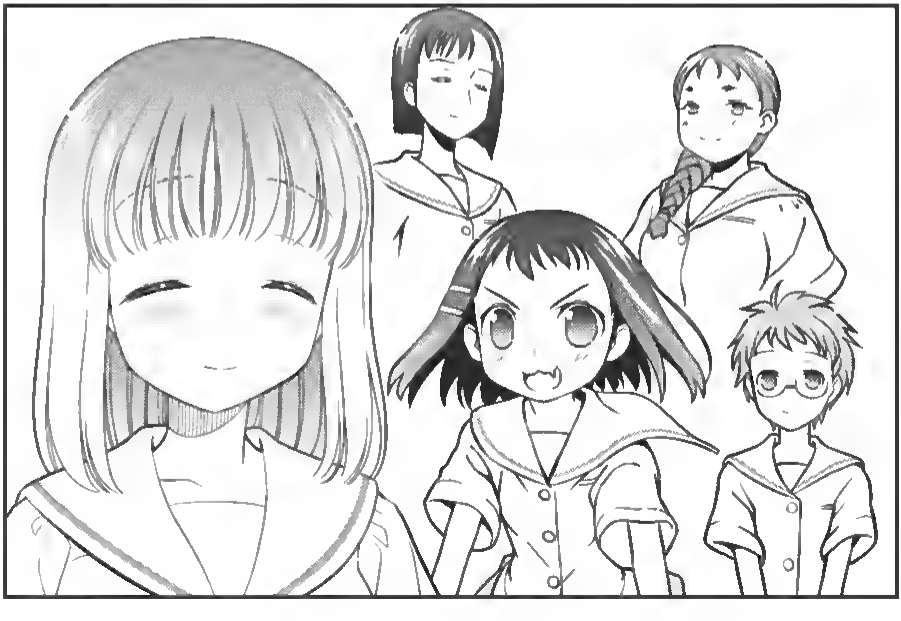
Let's hear messages of support from some of the people gathered here...
CHATTER ガヤ
CHATTER ガヤ

Good luck, Kataoka-san.
AH HA HA!
THAT'S MY TEACHER, SASA-HINA!
IT'S PACKED ...
GULP
Good luck, everyone!
THE CAFETERIA LADY!
I'll give you one free onigiri for every match you win!
I'll make you taco ramen next time you come in.
THE RAMEN SHOP OWNER!
MURO'S HEAD GOT CUT OFF!
I GUESS OUR SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE VICE PRESIDENT BEING A LOLICON WERE ON THE MARK.


WHEN I WAS A FIRST-YEAR...
...
...IN THE CLUB ROOM FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR—
...I WAS ALL ALONE...
AND NOW—
THE SECOND YEAR, MAKO CAME ALONG, AND THEN IT WAS THE TWO OF US FOR THE WHOLE YEAR

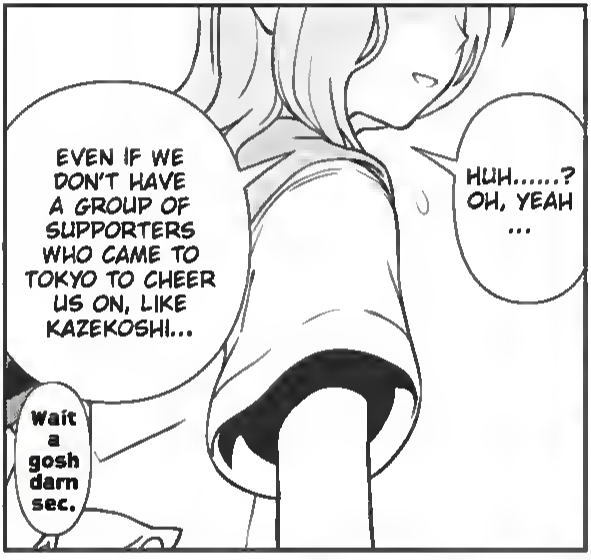




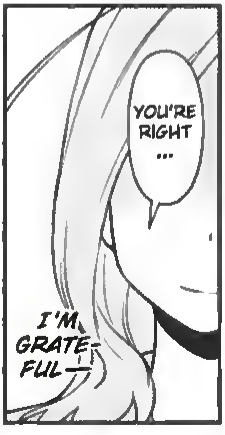


...so that qualifies as "urgent," right?
I don't think you'll see this unless I call...

Um... That's it for supportive messages. I'm gonna send this over to you now and call you.


EVEN IF WE DON'T HAVE A GROUP OF SUPPORTERS WHO CAME TO TOKYO TO CHEER US ON, LIKE KAZEKOSHI...
HUH.....? OH, YEAH ...
Wait a gosh darn sec.

TOUCH-ING, NO?

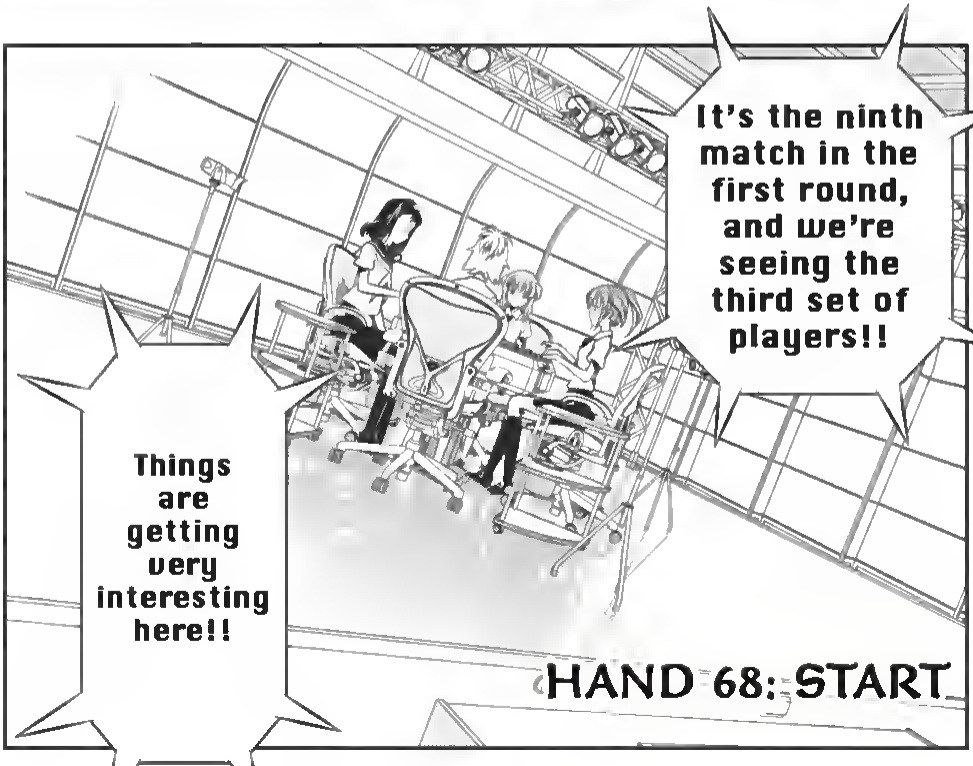

YOU'RE RIGHT ...
I'M GRATE-FUL—

DON'T DRAG KAZEKOSHI INTO THIS TO COVER UP YOUR BASHFULNESS.
THAT'S NOT HOW YOU REALLY FEEL.

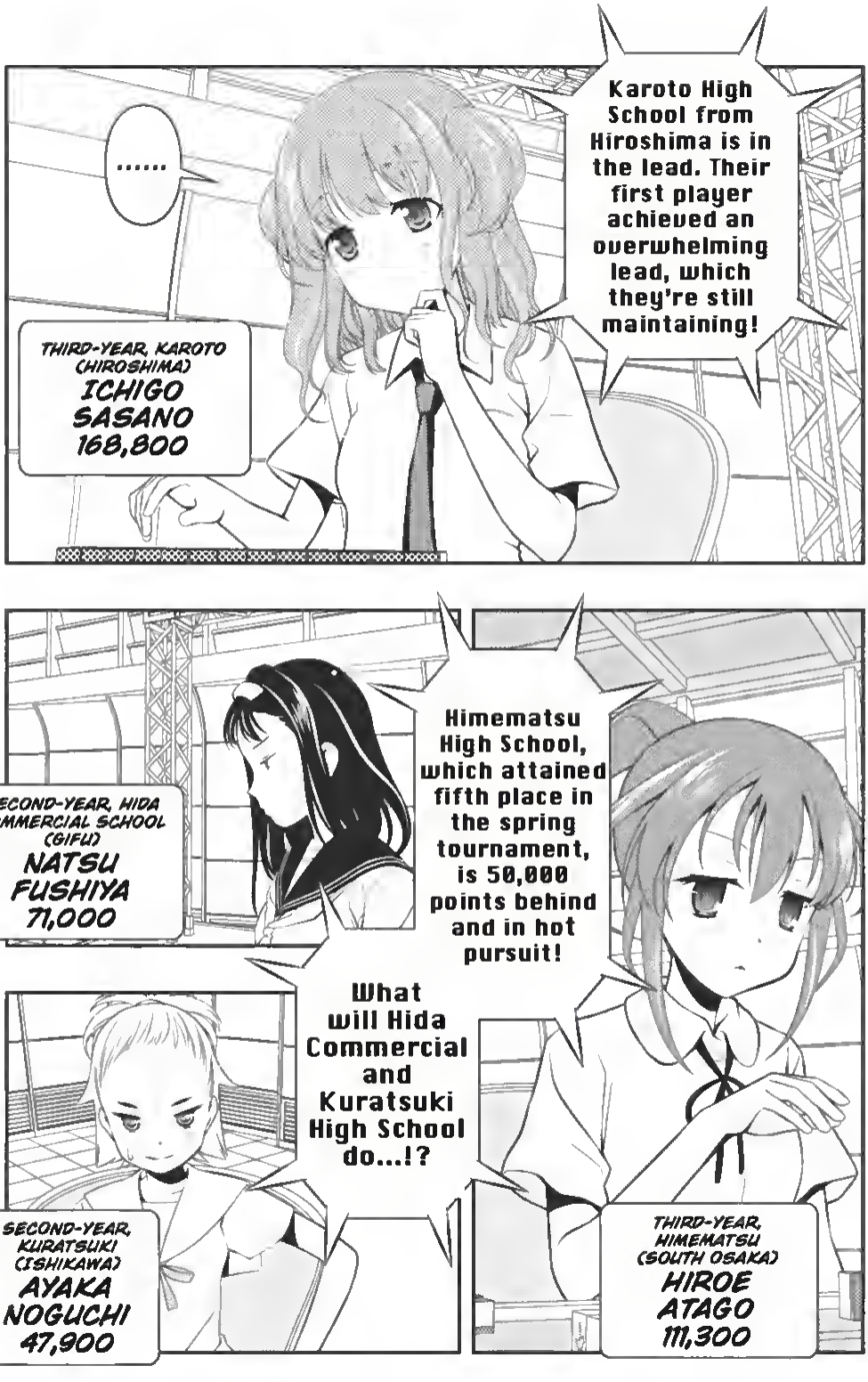
WE HAVE TO GIVE THIS OUR ALL...!!

CHEER
In just a moment, matches seven through nine...
...of the first round of the National High School Tournament will begin !!

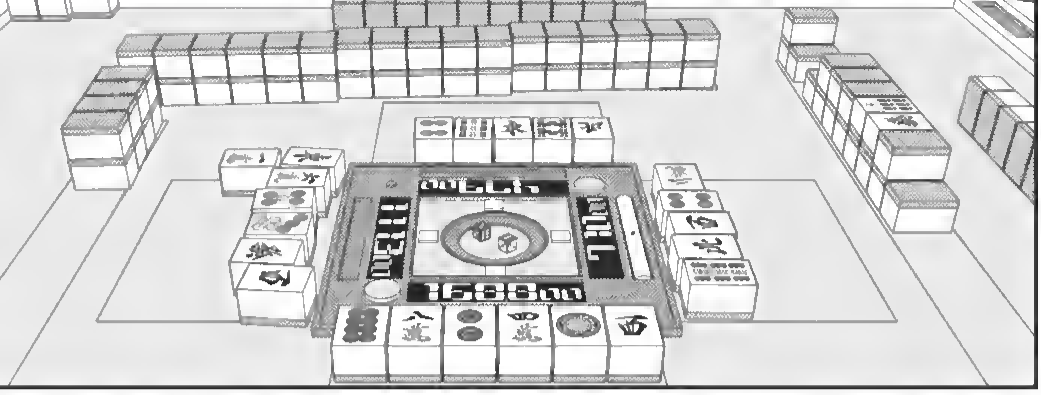
ガッ
GRAB
KONG
!
キラ
SHINE
RINSHAN
.....

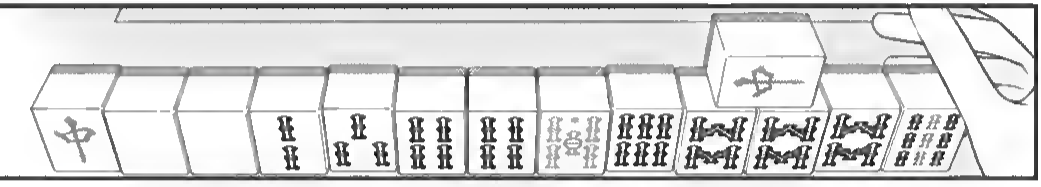


HAND 68: START

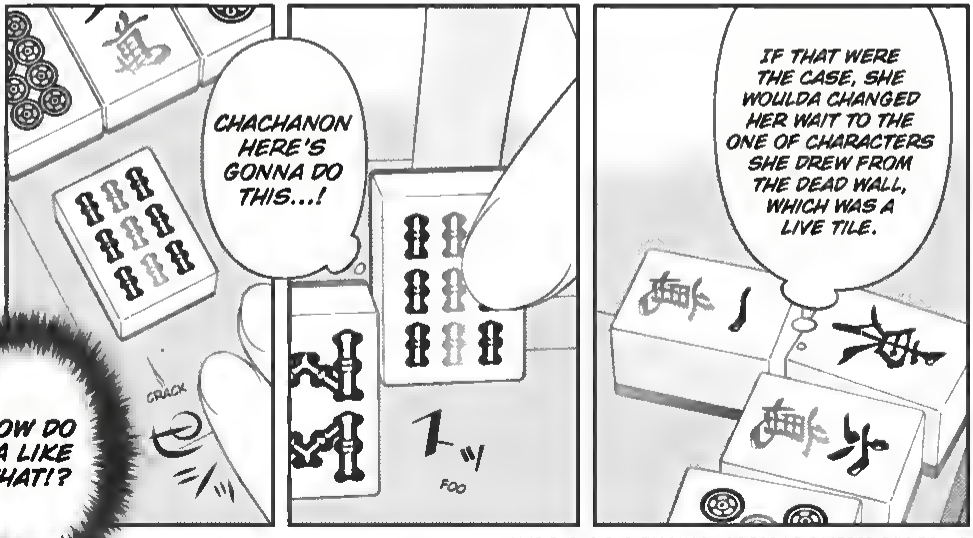

.....
Karoto High School from Hiroshima is in the lead. Their first player achieved an overwhelming lead, which they're still maintaining!
THIRD-YEAR, KAROTO (HIROSHIMA)
ICHIGO SASANO
168,800
SECOND-YEAR, HIDA COMMERCIAL SCHOOL (GIFU)
NATSU FUSHIYA
71,000
Himematsu High School, which attained fifth place in the spring tournament, is 50,000 points behind and in hot pursuit!
What will Hida Commercial and Kuratsuki High School do...!?
SECOND-YEAR, KURATSUKI (ISHIKAWA)
AYAKA NOGUCHI
47,900
THIRD-YEAR, HIMEMATSU (SOUTH OSAKA)
HIROE ATAGO
111,300

THE DEALER, HIDA COMMERCIAL CALLED RIICHI.
GIFU'S IN THIRD—
THEN SHE SAID, "KAIHO AIN'T HAPPEN-ING!" IS SHE IN TENPAI...?
HIMEMATSU MADE A KONG BY ADDING A TILE DRAWN FROM THE WALL TO AN OPEN PUNG...
LET'S SEE...
KURATSUKI FOLDED ON THE FIRST TURN.

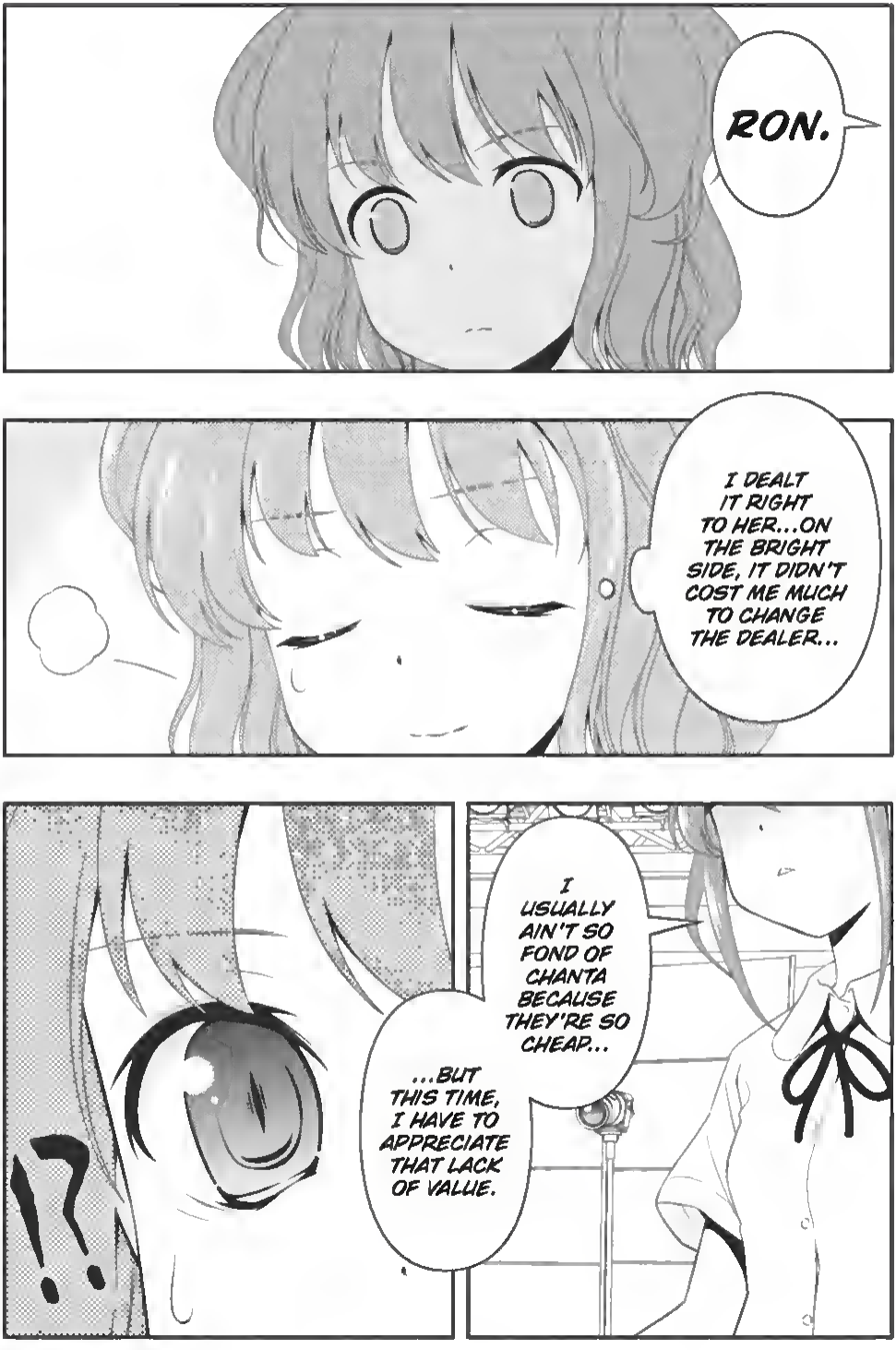




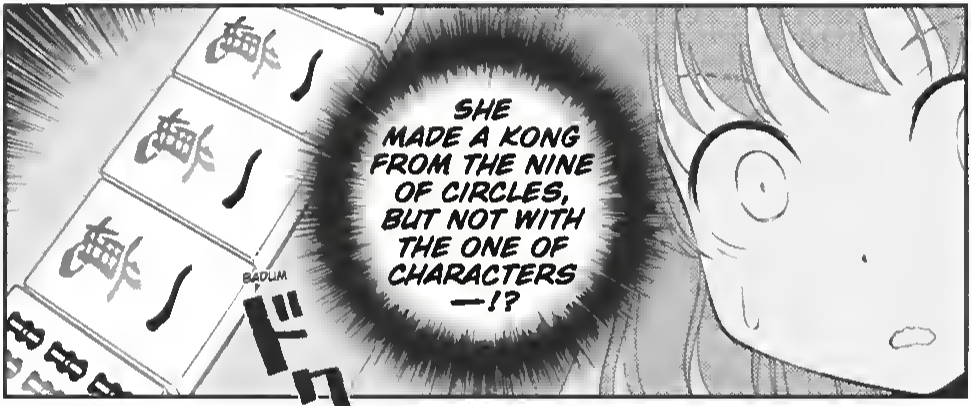
...BUT HIMEMATSU COULD BE GOING FOR CHANTA—A TERMINAL OR HONOR IN EACH SET—OR ALL PUNGS...THE EIGHT OF STICKS IS THERE, CLEAR AS DAY,AND A WAIT ON THE NINE OF STICKS WOULD BE A HELL PAIR WAIT FOR SURE...
IF I WIN ON A DRAW, I'LL GET A SANBAIMAN EVEN IF I DON'T GOT A RIICHI...THE NINE OF STICKS IS SAFE FROM KURATSUKI AND THE DEALER, HIDA COMMERCIAL...


CHACHANON HERE'S GONNA DO THIS...!
CRACK
FOO
IF THAT WERE THE CASE, SHE WOULDA CHANGED HER WAIT TO THE ONE OF CHARACTERS SHE DREW FROM THE DEAD WALL, WHICH WAS A LIVE TILE.
HOW DO YA LIKE THAT!?

LIVE TILE: A TILE THAT HAS NOT BEEN DISCARDED THIS ROUND


RON.
I DEALT IT RIGHT TO HER...ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, IT DIDN'T COST ME MUCH TO CHANGE THE DEALER...
I USUALLY AIN'T SO FOND OF CHANTA BECAUSE THEY'RE SO CHEAP...
...BUT THIS TIME, I HAVE TO APPRECIATE THAT LACK OF VALUE.
!?

FLIP

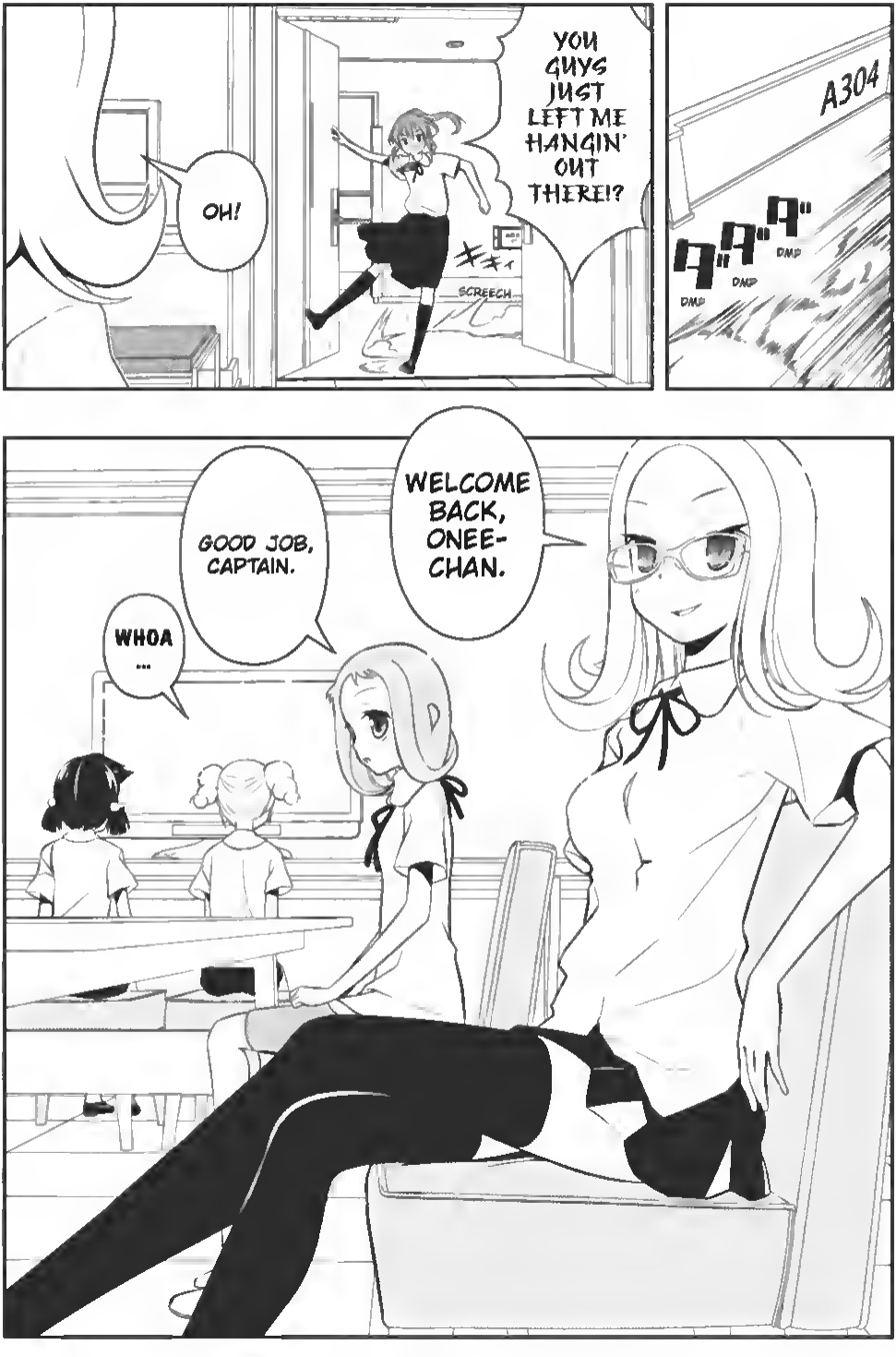

SHE MADE A KONG FROM THE NINE OF CIRCLES, BUT NOT WITH THE ONE OF CHARACTERS —!?
BADUM
ドクン!

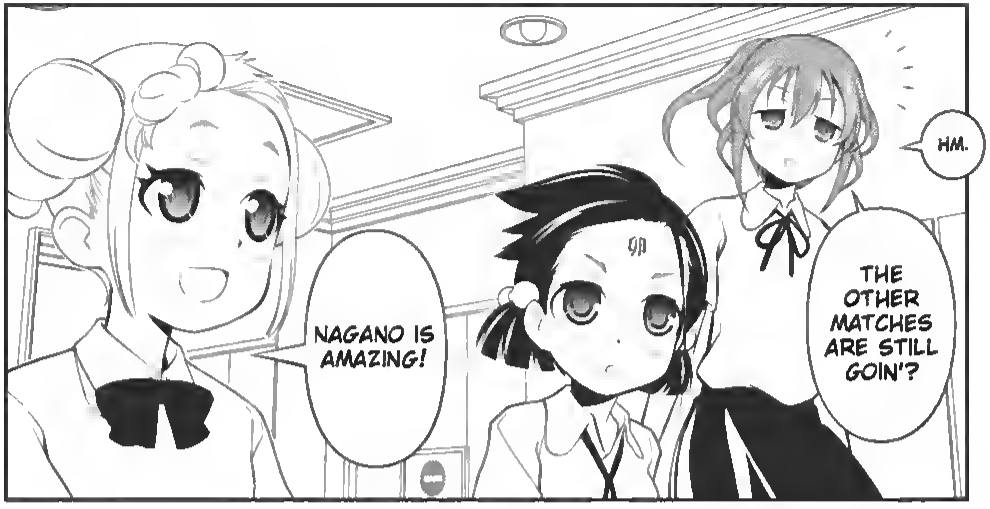
BADUM
ドクン!!
DON'T TELL ME...!!

DUM
BUT THIS YAKU HERE...

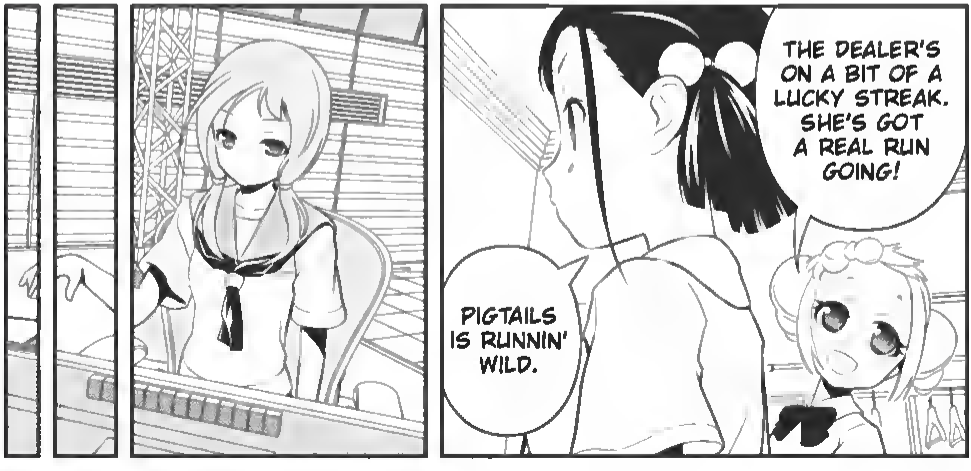
SLUMP
I HADN'T EVEN CONSIDERED THAT...
ROAR
ALL TERMI-NALS !!
32,000—
DOES IT HURT MORE THAN YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD?

The third players' match of the ninth first round is over!!
Hiroe Atago, the captain of Himematsu High School's mahjong club...
...made a comeback win with a direct yakuman hit!!
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE WON WITH A YAKUMAN AT NATIONALS...
THUMP THUMP
パーン
SLAP
HUH ...?


OH!
YOU GUYS JUST LEFT ME HANGIN' OUT THERE!?
キィ
SCREECH
A304
DMP
DMP
DMP
WELCOME BACK, ONEE-CHAN.
GOOD JOB, CAPTAIN.
WHOA ...


NAGANO IS AMAZING!
THE OTHER MATCHES ARE STILL GOIN'?
HM.

KIYO-SUMI HIGH !!
NAGANO ...


THE DEALER'S ON A BIT OF A LUCKY STREAK. SHE'S GOT A REAL RUN GOING!
PIGTAILS IS RUNNIN' WILD.

HMM...
KOROMO AMAE-CHAN...
MUNCH
SCARY, ISN'T IT?
THE ONES WHO BEAT RYUMON-BUCHI.
AH... THAT LI'L GIRL WAS INCREDIBLE LAST YEAR.
KIYOSUMI, HUH?
THEN IT MIGHT BE TOUGH FOR THOSE THREE SCHOOLS ...
KIYOSUMI MUST BE EVEN BETTER THAN THAT.
IN THE FIRST ROUND, SHE BUMPED OFF TWO SCHOOLS...IN THE SECOND ROUND, SHE DID IT TO THREE.
WHY?

PRIN-CESS!
MUNCH
THAT'S NO REASON TO UNDER-ESTIMATE THEM.
BECAUSE THERE ARE FEW SCHOOLS IN THEIR PREFEC-TURES?
...THAT MEANS THEY WON ABOUT AS MUCH AS THE TEAMS WE PLAYED AGAINST AT THE KAGOSHIMA FINALS.
EVEN IF THEIR REGIONAL TOURNA-MENT IS HELD IN A PREFEC-TURE WITH TWENTY SCHOOLS ...
...ANY OF THE THREE SCHOOLS WE FACED AT THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER FINALS?
COULD YOU AFFORD TO MAKE LIGHT OF...

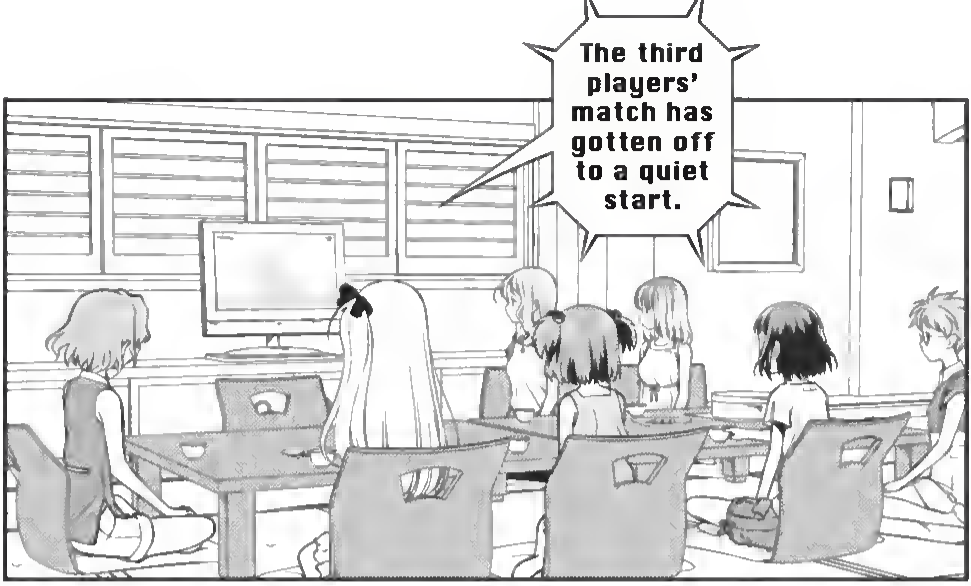
MUNCH
SHAKE
SHAKE
LET'S TREAT...
...ALL OF OUR OPPONENTS WITH RESPECT.
That's the game !!
HUH...?

ROAR!
Kiyosumi High School's third player, Hisa Takei!
In the sixth bonus hand, she unleashed a direct haneman!
They won their first round match without even going to the fourth player!!

WELL, WELL ...
SHIVER
IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO TEACH THEM A LESSON!
SHIVER

It's the fifth day of the National High School Tournament and we finally get to see two of the four seeded schools!
From here on in, the best 16 will be whittled down!!
Which schools will survive these next two matches —!?
SECOND-YEAR, SHIRAITODAI HIGH SCHOOL (WEST TOKYO) TAKAMI SHIBUYA
.....

HAND 69: AMBITION


The third players' match has gotten off to a quiet start.

SAKI-SAN... YOUR SISTER'S SCHOOL IS PLAYING IN THAT MATCH.
SHINDOJI AND KARIYASUKA ARE PRETTY IMPRESSIVE TOO.
SHIRATAKI ITO KONNYAKU IS REALLY STRONG!
.....

CHIRP
CHIRP
SHOULDN'T YOU BE WATCHING ...?

THE NEXT DAY
CHATTER
Today, the sixth day of the National High School Tournament ...
...will feature the third and fourth second-round matches!!
AH...
Waiting Room
The first players' match will begin in a moment!

PHEW...
RAIN ON TOP OF ALL THIS HUMIDITY IS TOUGH.
LET'S TAKE EXTRA CARE NOT TO CATCH COLDS.
HE DIDN'T GET WET...
パラ
SPATTER

MM... YOU'RE GOING ALREADY...? ISN'T IT TOO SOON?
I'M GONNA TOUCH UP MY MAKEUP IN THE REST-ROOM.
ALL RIGHT!
MY TACO POWER IS FULLY CHARGED!
すっ
SWISH
PING

しゃしゃ
GOBBLE
GOBBLE

THANKS!
GOOD LUCK!

LEAVE IT TO ME!

TEAR IT UP!
JUST LIKE WE PRACTICED.

FWISH
I'M OFF! YEAH!

The third match is on stage A, and it's the anticipated clash between Eisui Girls' and Himematsu High School!
The first player for Eisui Girls' achieved great success in last year's team tournament—
Komaki Jindai!!
SECOND-YEAR, EISUI GIRLS' (KAGOSHIMA) KOMAKI JINDAI

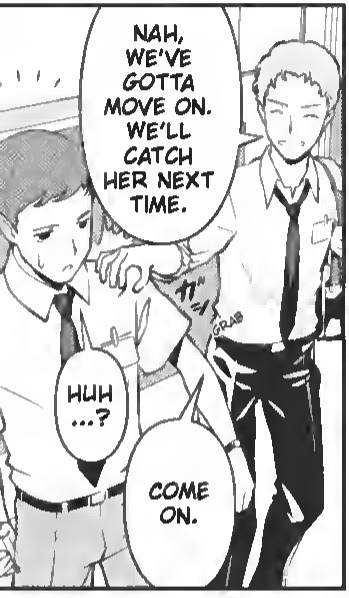
Their first player made it to the second round last year after knocking out Makabi High School's Mekaru, who made sixth place in last year's individual tournament...!!
Representing Iwate Prefecture is Miyamori Girls'!
FLASH
FLASH

Shiromi Kosegawa!!
I'M TIRED...
3RD-YEAR, MIYAMORI GIRLS' (IWATE)
SHIROMI KOSEGAWA

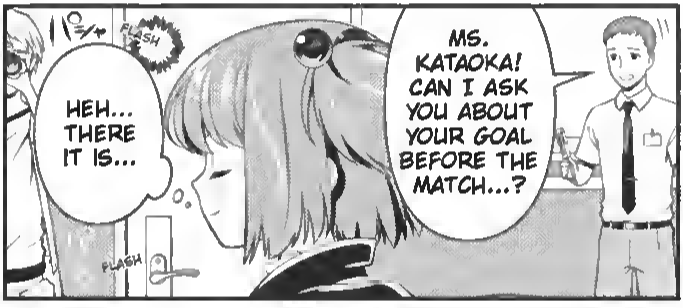
From Himematsu High School, which represents South Osaka and placed fifth at this year's spring tournament —
Suzu Ueshige!
Last year she played fourth, but this year she's up first!
SECOND-YEAR, HIMEMATSU HIGH SCHOOL (SOUTH OSAKA) SUZU UESHIGE
And from Kiyosumi High School, representing Nagano Prefecture—

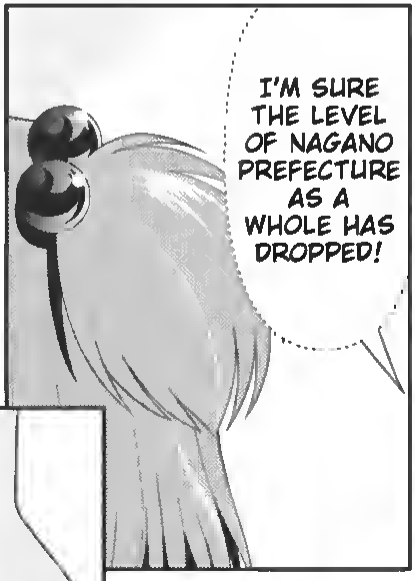
SWISH
Yuki Kataoka!
FIRST-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL (NAGANO) YUKI KATAOKA
ROAR

Huh ...?

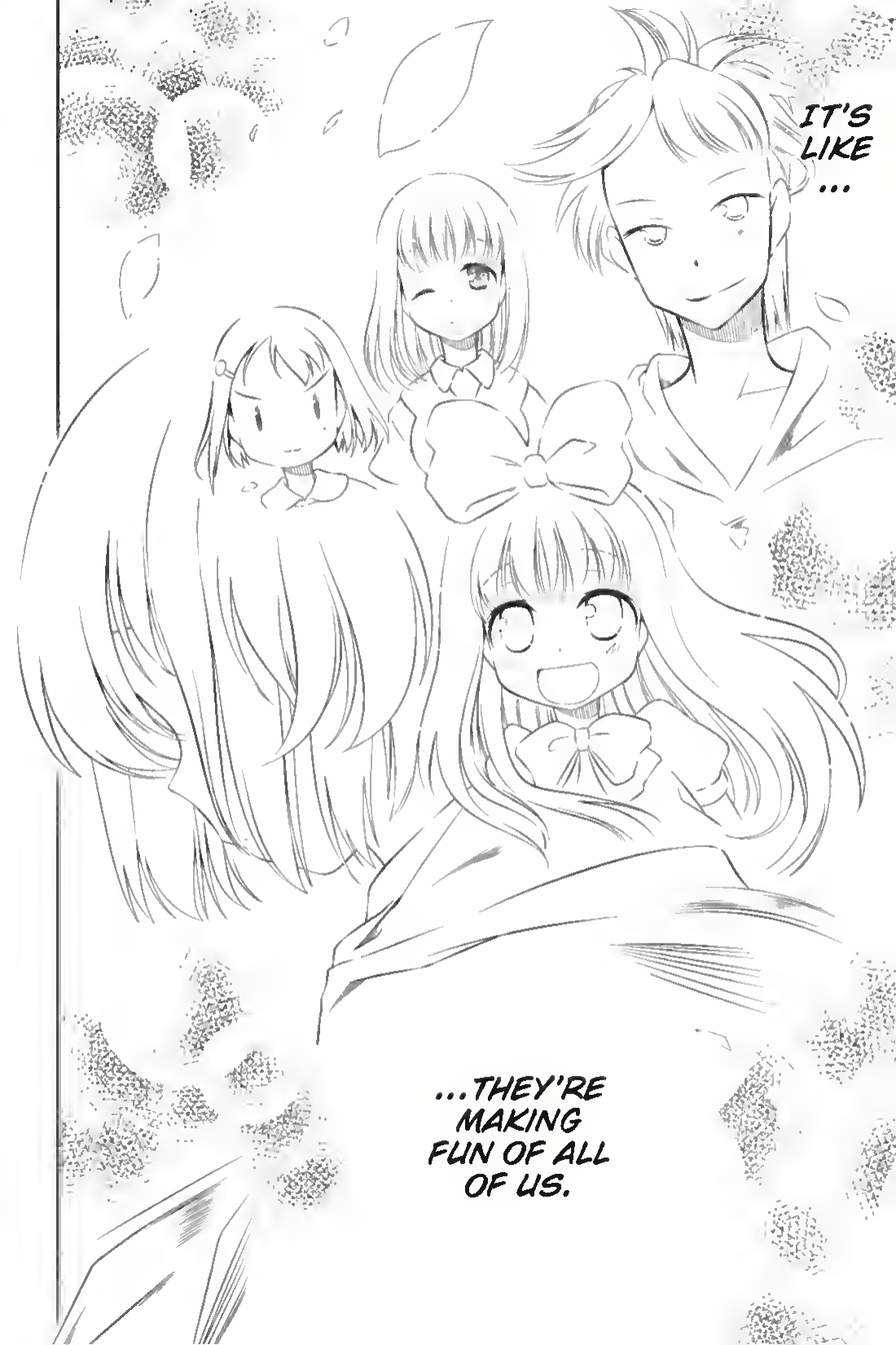

NAH, WE'VE GOTTA MOVE ON. WE'LL CATCH HER NEXT TIME.
GRAB
HUH ...?
COME ON.

IS THAT WHAT SHE BOUGHT THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY ...!!?
A CLOAK ...!?


FLASH
HEH... THERE IT IS...
FLASH
MS. KATAOKA! CAN I ASK YOU ABOUT YOUR GOAL BEFORE THE MATCH...?


I'M SURE THE LEVEL OF NAGANO PREFECTURE AS A WHOLE HAS DROPPED!

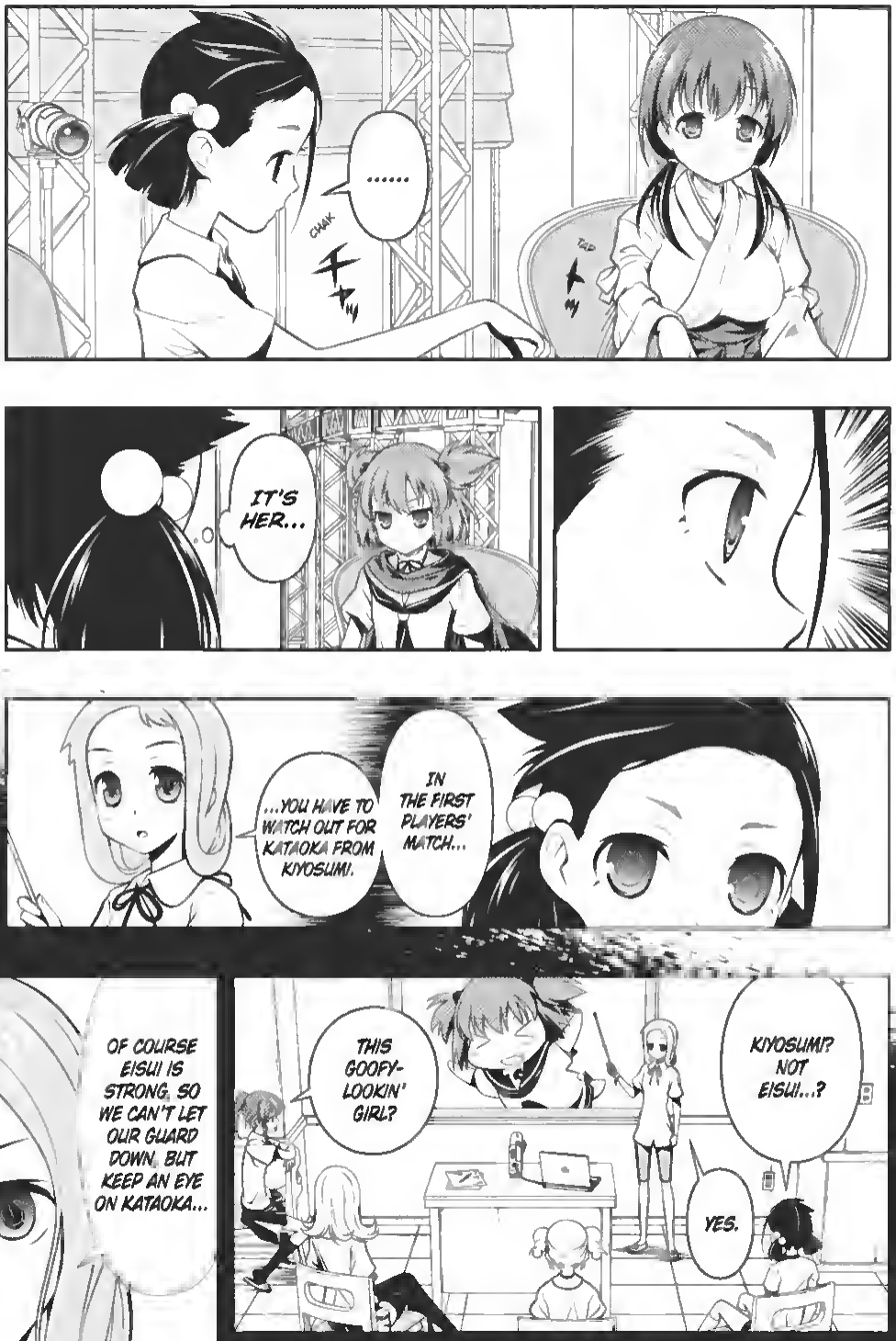
IDIOT. HARAMURA IS THE ONLY ONE FROM KIYOSUMI WE'RE INTERESTED IN!
MUTTER
WHISPER
BUT THE EDITOR SAID TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO KIYOSUMI.


IT'S LIKE ...
...THEY'RE MAKING FUN OF ALL OF US.

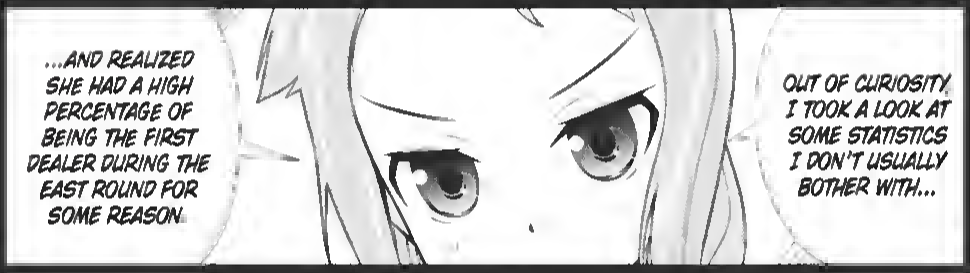
IS OUR PREFECTURE WEAK—?
ROAR
HOW ABOUT...
ゴッ
FWOOM
...I SHOW YOU RIGHT NOW!?

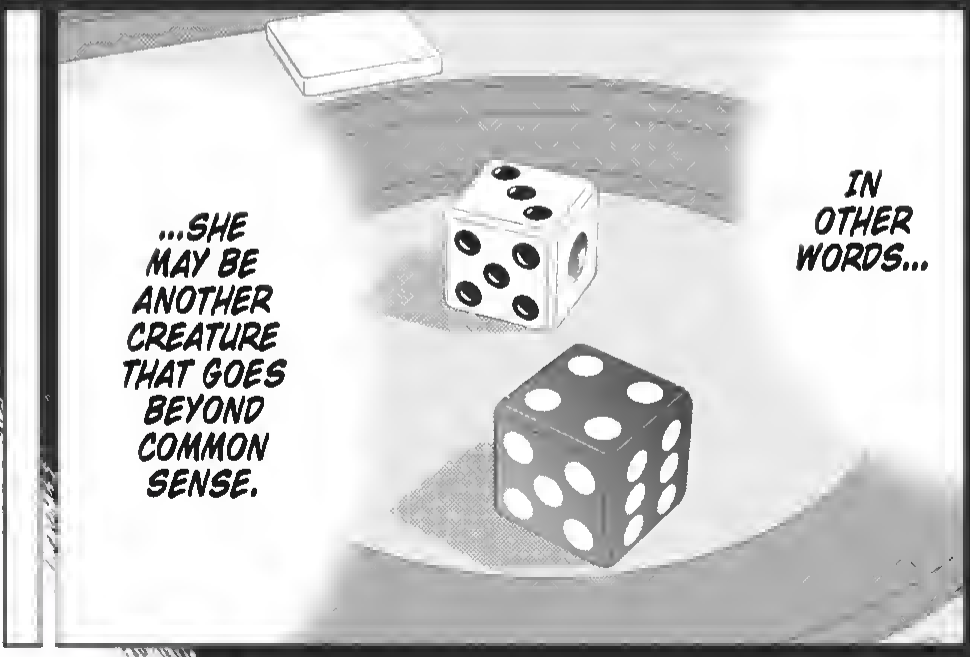
HAND 70: EAST WIND

We're down to the top 16 teams of the tournament! Out of them, only two schools are here for the first time!!
One is Kiyosumi High School from Nagano... It's a young team, with three first-years as regulars!
First up is now one of this first-year trio, Yuki Kataoka!
And the match starts with Kataoka as the first dealer!!


.....
CHAK
TAP
IT'S HER...
IN THE FIRST PLAYERS' MATCH...
...YOU HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR KATAOKA FROM KIYOSUMI.
KIYOSUMI? NOT EISUI...?
THIS GOOFY-LOOKIN' GIRL?
YES.
OF COURSE EISUI IS STRONG, SO WE CAN'T LET OUR GUARD DOWN, BUT KEEP AN EYE ON KATAOKA...

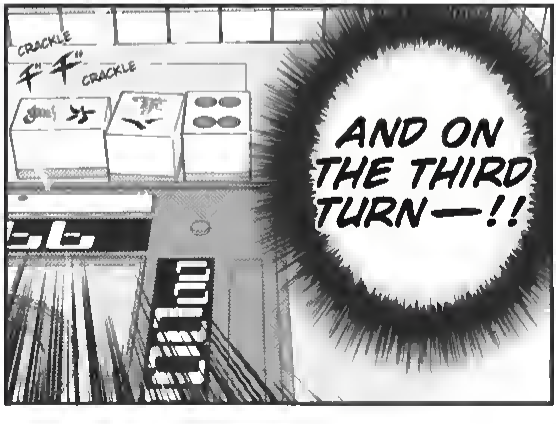
THIS CRITTER LEFT BEHIND A TERRIFYING WAR RECORD AT THE REGIONAL TOURNAMENT.
TWIRL
(ぐり)
(ぐり)
TWIRL
IN INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENTS, SHE'S HAD A SUCCESSION OF HIGH SCORES...
...BUT ONLY IN THE EAST ROUND ON THE FIRST DAY.
THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS.


OUT OF CURIOSITY, I TOOK A LOOK AT SOME STATISTICS I DON'T USUALLY BOTHER WITH...
...AND REALIZED SHE HAD A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF BEING THE FIRST DEALER DURING THE EAST ROUND FOR SOME REASON.


IN OTHER WORDS...
...SHE MAY BE ANOTHER CREATURE THAT GOES BEYOND COMMON SENSE.

WHAT'S SHE GONNA DO...?
I DIDN'T THINK SHE'D ACTUALLY BECOME THE FIRST DEALER...
ガチャ
CHAK
チャッ
CHAK

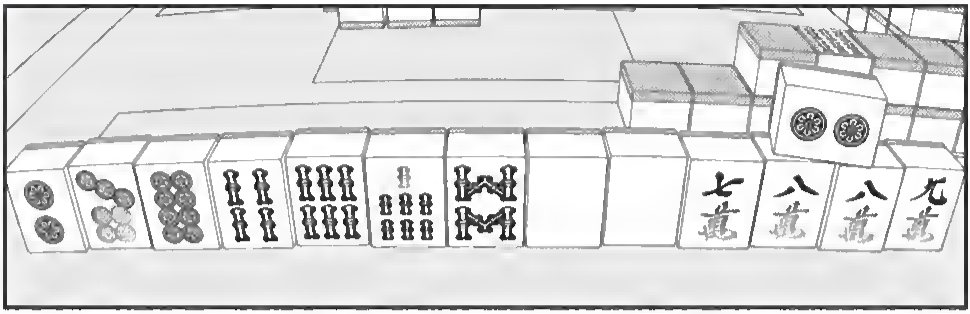
RIICHI!
YEAH!
CLACK

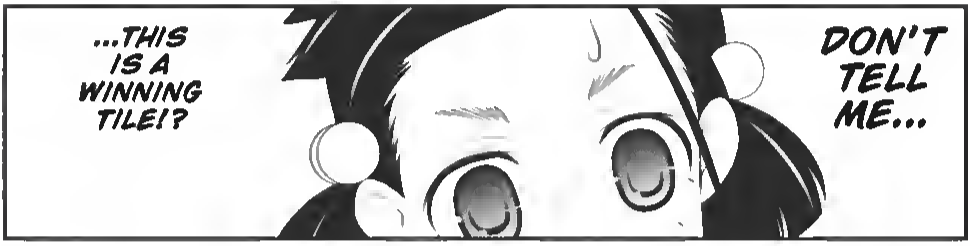

CRACKLE
CRACKLE
AND ON THE THIRD TURN—!!

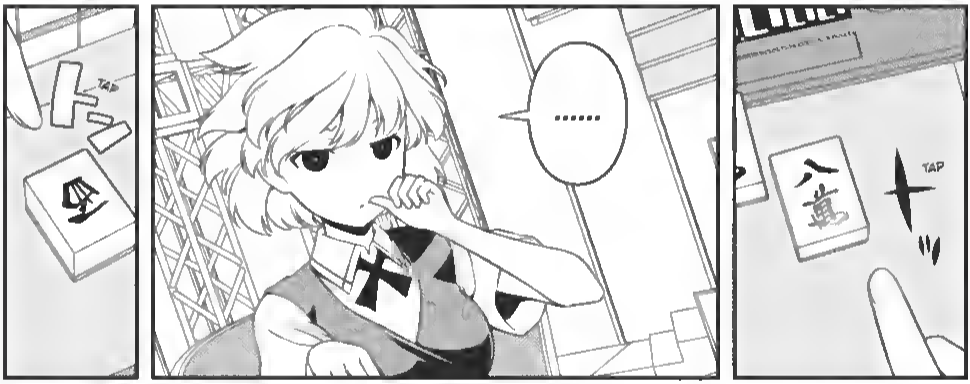
DEAL-ER'S RIICHI!!

チャ
CHIK
I BET EVEN EISUI'S JINDAI WILL FOLD—
トン
TAP
TWO OF CIRCLES .....
六萬
七萬
八萬
八萬
九萬
I'M TIRED ...
HUFF...
?
PAFF
パ
六萬

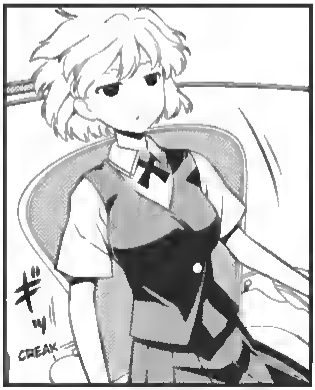
ULP...
RIGHT IN PLAIN SIGHT ……!!
HOW'S THAT?
THUNK
……
SHE'S NOT FOLDING ?
TAP
EH ...!?
PUNG.
AH...
SNATCH
IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THAT PUNG, THIS WOULD BE KIYOSUMI'S ...
I DON'T GET IT.


七萬
八萬
八萬
九萬


...THIS IS A WINNING TILE!?
DON'T TELL ME...

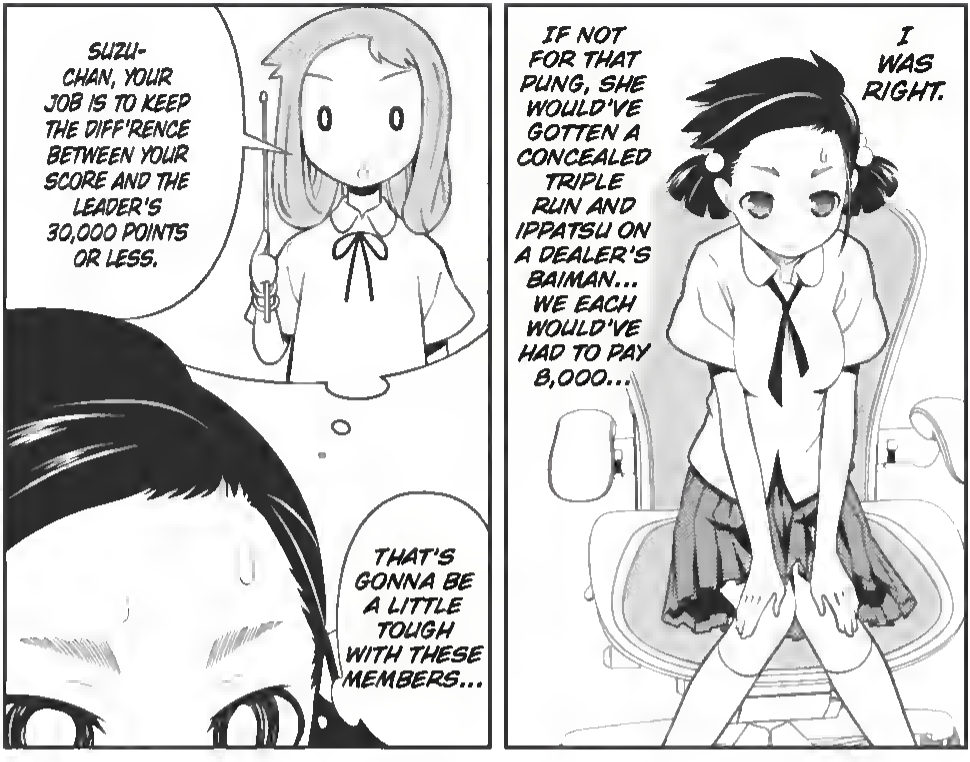

TAP
.....
八萬
TAP

WHOOSH

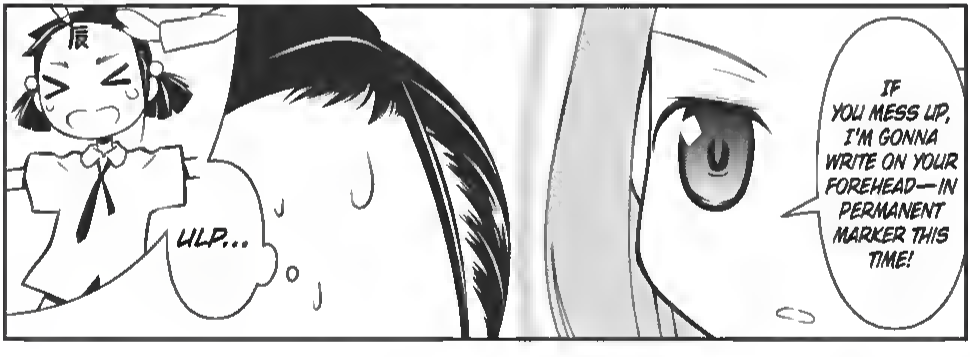

CREAK

.....

YOW...
ドド
BOOM
TSUMO!
4,000 FROM ALL OF YOU!!
ROAR
オ
オ


SUZU-CHAN, YOUR JOB IS TO KEEP THE DIFF'RENCE BETWEEN YOUR SCORE AND THE LEADER'S 30,000 POINTS OR LESS.
THAT'S GONNA BE A LITTLE TOUGH WITH THESE MEMBERS...
I WAS RIGHT.
IF NOT FOR THAT PUNG, SHE WOULD'VE GOTTEN A CONCEALED TRIPLE RUN AND IPPATSU ON A DEALER'S BAIMAN... WE EACH WOULD'VE HAD TO PAY 8,000...

SIGN: DISGRACE



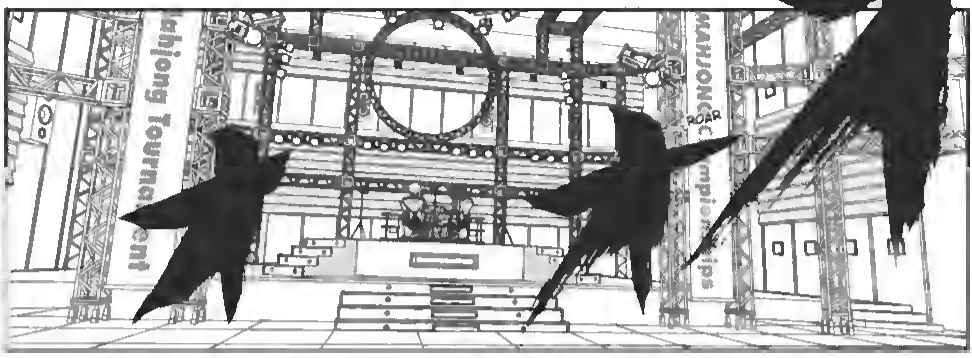
THEY'RE ALL...
... ALIVE!
DIDN'T BEANPOLE TRAIN ME TO STAY ON TRACK, EVEN IF SOMEONE ELSE CALLS A TILE?
THE FEELING IN MY FINGERS ...
WHAT IS IT?
YOU LOOK FRAZZLED ALL OF A SUDDEN.

BWUH?
SINCE STARTING THE SOUTH ROUND...
...I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SENSE YOUR POWER.
IT'S LIKE WHEN THE MOON IS OBSCURED BY THE CLOUDS
AH...
FOR SOME REASON, WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW IT'S THE SECOND HALF, I LOSE MY CONCENTRATION.
I'M FINE IF IT'S AN EAST ROUND GAME ONLY, BUT...
HUH
THEN...
...YOU SHOULD JUST GO ON A DEALER'S STREAK IN THE EAST ROUND...
...AND VANQUISH THEM THERE.

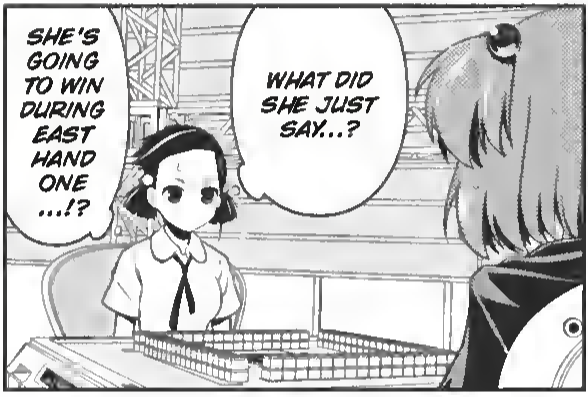
ACCOM-
PLISH
THAT...
...AND
IT'LL
ALWAYS
BE AN
EAST-
ONLY
MATCH!
SHE HAS
A POINT...
ALL
RIGHT.

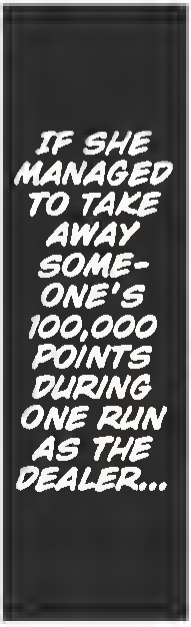
I'LL BE GOING ON A DEALER'S STREAK AND ENDING IT HERE.
!?
THIS MATCH...
...WON'T HAVE AN EAST HAND TWO!
BOOM

HAND 71: MONSTER

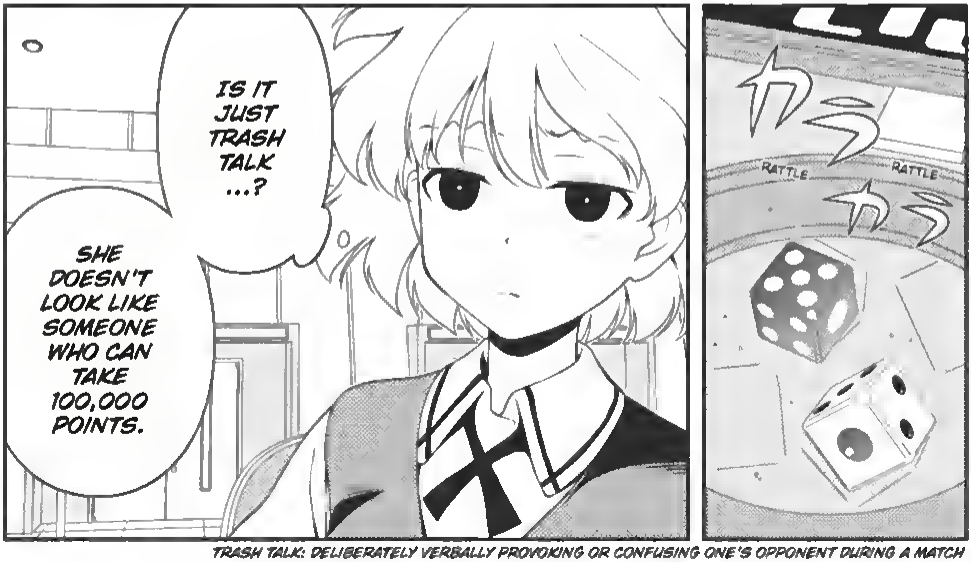

ROAR

EVEN IF WE'D STARTED WITH ONLY 25,000 POINTS, THAT'D STILL BE CRAZY TALK!


SHE'S GOING TO WIN DURING EAST HAND ONE ...!?
WHAT DID SHE JUST SAY...?

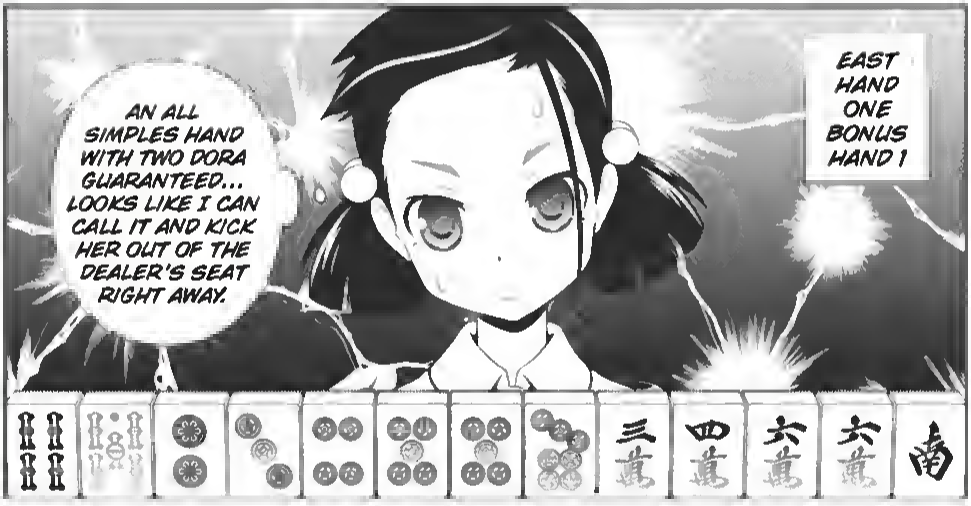

IF SHE MANAGED TO TAKE AWAY SOME-ONE'S 100,000 POINTS DURING ONE RUN AS THE DEALER...

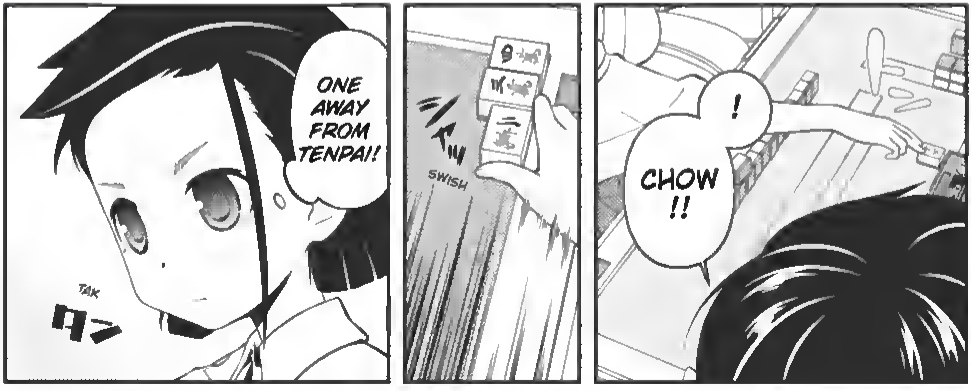
BUT WE ALL STARTED THIS MATCH WITH 100,000 POINTS—!!
ROAR



TRASH TALK: DELIBERATELY VERBALLY PROVOKING OR CONFUSING ONE'S OPPONENT DURING A MATCH

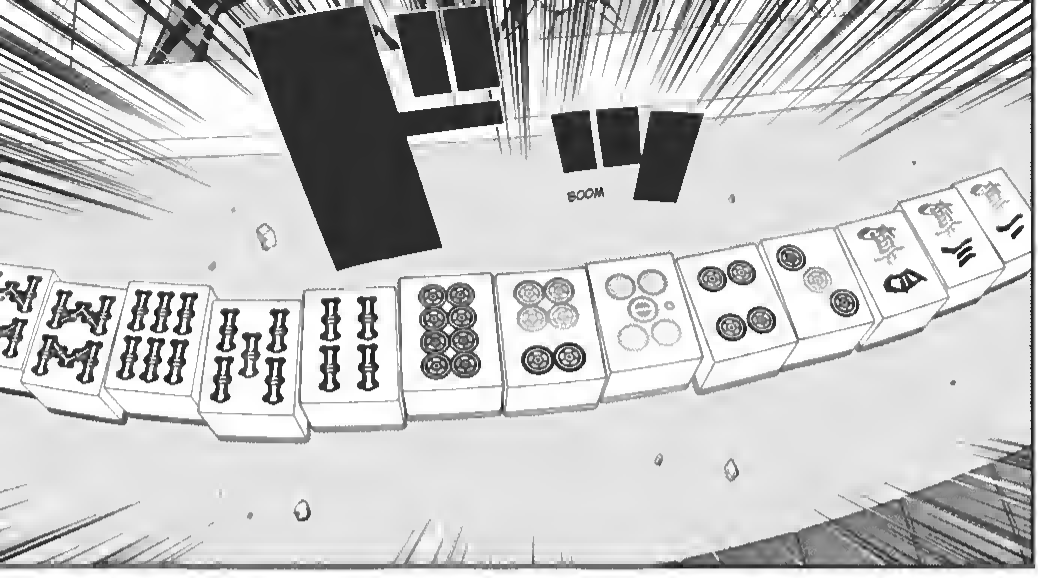
MAYBE SHE'S JUST AN AIR-HEAD...
WHAT A PAIN...
AW, NOT A HEAV-ENLY HAND!
CLICK
SIGH...

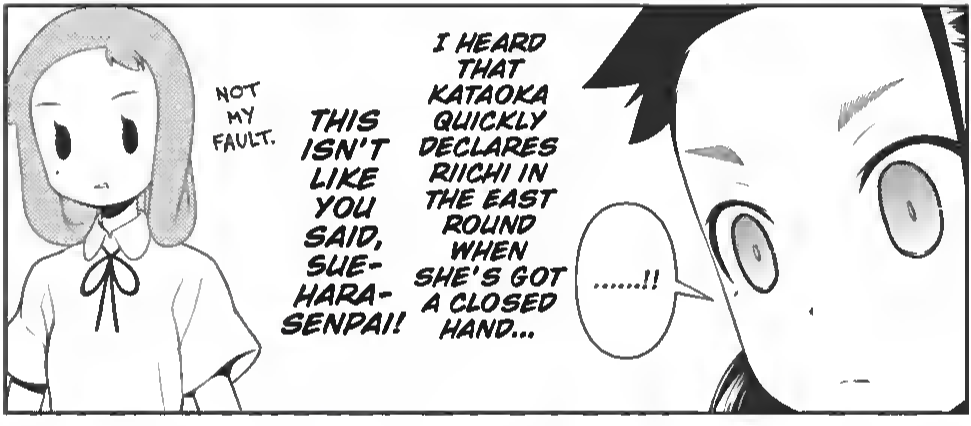

EAST HAND ONE BONUS HAND!
AN ALL SIMPLES HAND WITH TWO DORA GUARANTEED... LOOKS LIKE I CAN CALL IT AND KICK HER OUT OF THE DEALER'S SEAT RIGHT AWAY.


ONE AWAY FROM TENPAI!
TAK
SWISH
!
CHOW !!

HEY!
SWISH
チャッ
THUNK
コトッ
パラ
FLIP
PUNG!
TAP
I GOT IT...!!
ALL RIGHT...

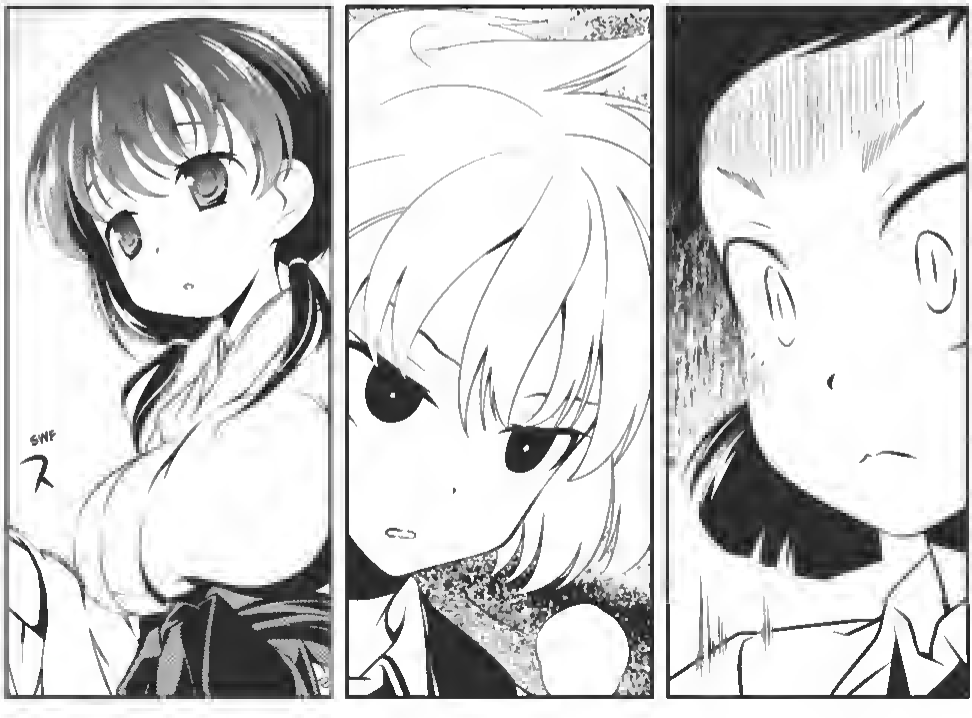
RON!
ﾌｧｻｯ
EH...?
I DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR A NEW HAND.
8,000!


BOOM

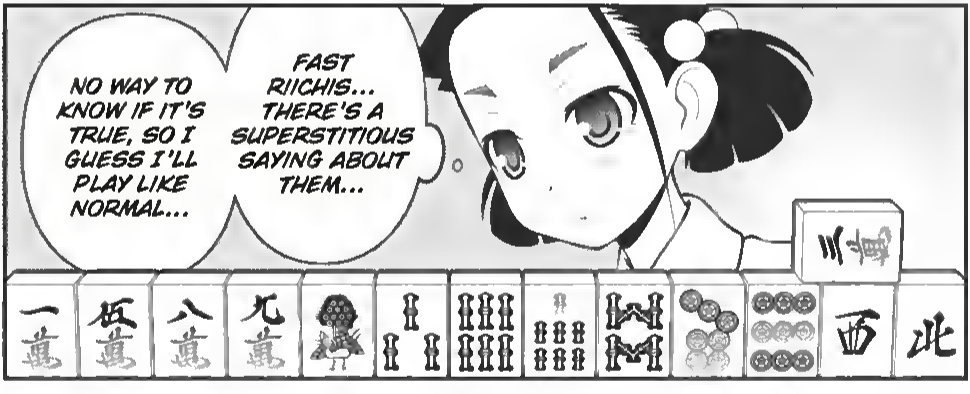

I HEARD THAT KATAOKA QUICKLY DECLARES RIICHI IN THE EAST ROUND WHEN SHE'S GOT A CLOSED HAND...
.....!!
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU SAID, SUE-HARA-SENPAI!
NOT MY FAULT.

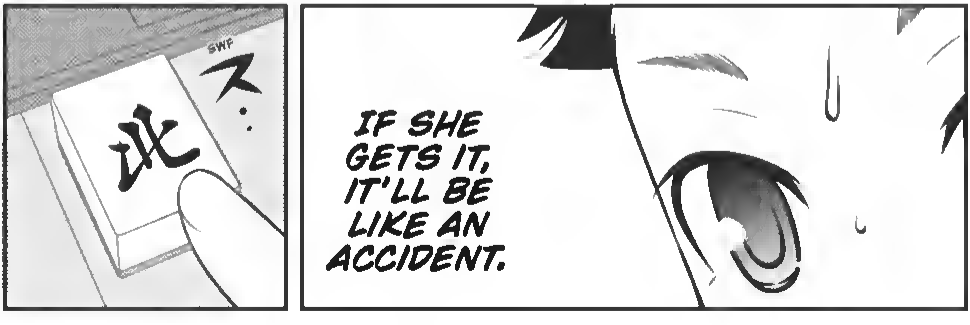
GOTTA START FROM HERE ...!!
WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED... AND I'VE BEEN A REGULAR PLAYER AT A COMPETITIVE SCHOOL SINCE FIRST YEAR TOO!
CALM DOWN ...
パラッ
CLACK

BOOM
DOUBLE RIICHI!! YEAH!!

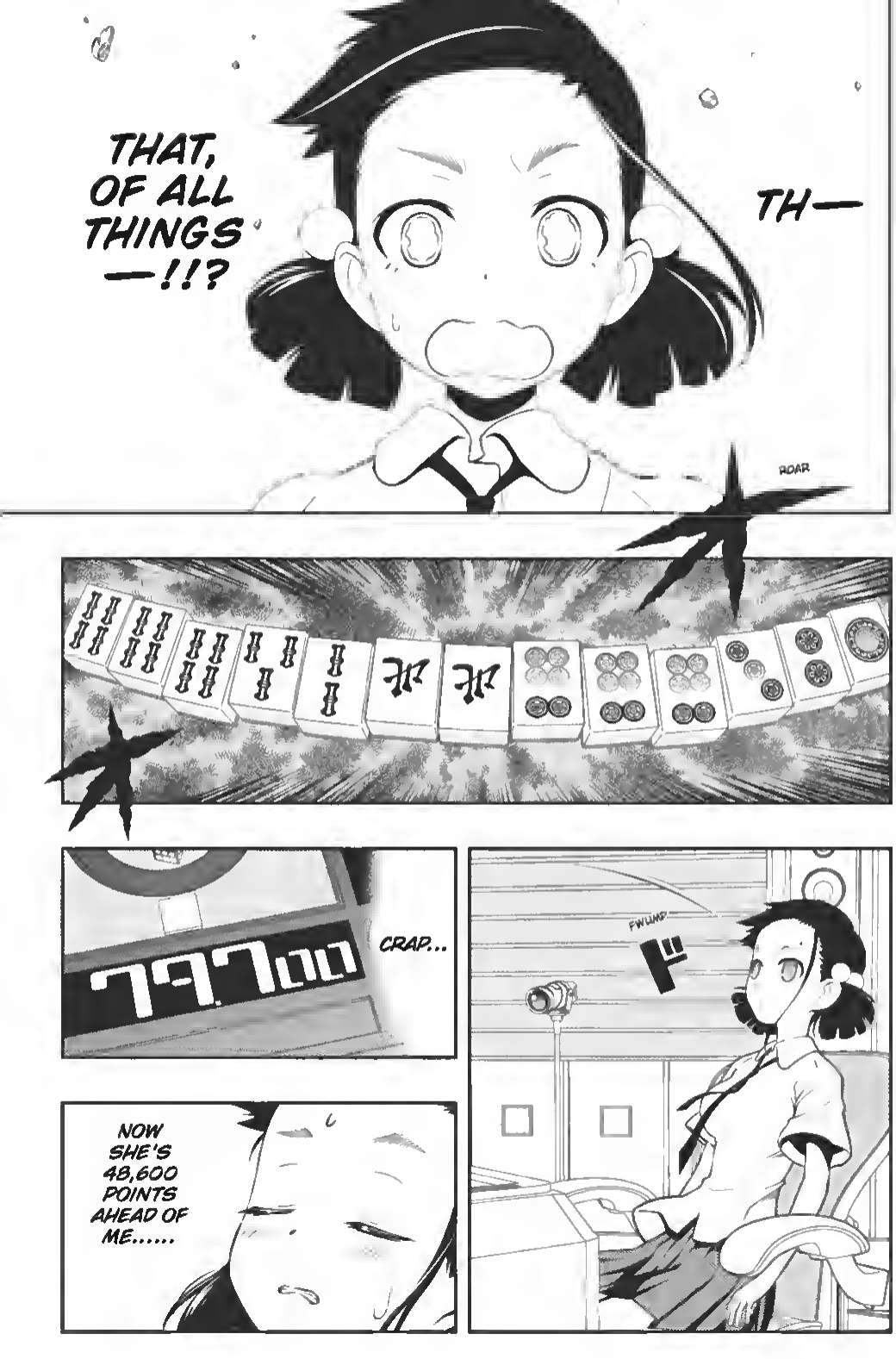

SWF

REALLY?
SHE'S UNFAZED .....!?
ニヤ

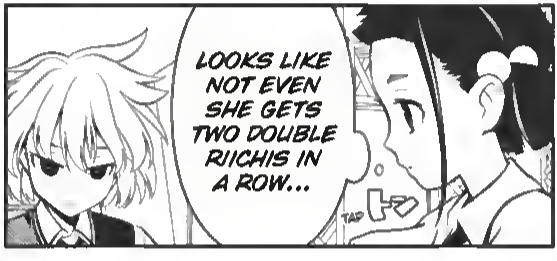

NO WAY TO KNOW IF IT'S TRUE, SO I GUESS I'LL PLAY LIKE NORMAL...
FAST RIICHIS... THERE'S A SUPERSTITIOUS SAYING ABOUT THEM...
一萬 五萬 八萬 九萬 西 北


北
ス
IF SHE GETS IT, IT'LL BE LIKE AN ACCIDENT.

IPPA-TSU!!
RON ...!
ゴ
ROAR
!!

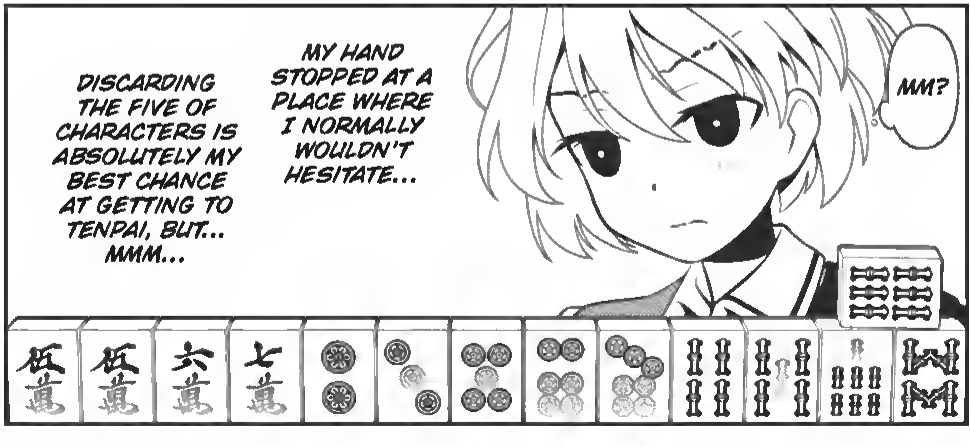

THAT, OF ALL THINGS —!!?
TH—
ROAR
CRAP...
FWUMP
NOW SHE'S 48,600 POINTS AHEAD OF ME.....

EAST
HAND
ONE
BONUS
HAND 3

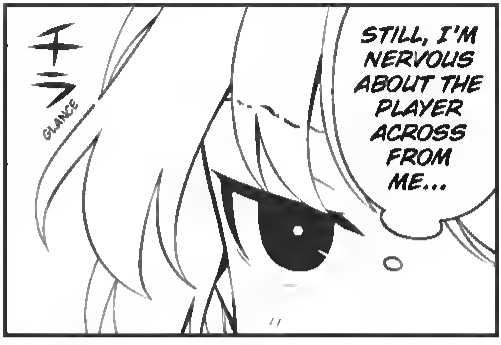

LOOKS LIKE NOT EVEN SHE GETS TWO DOUBLE RIICHIS IN A ROW...
TAP
トン

TAK

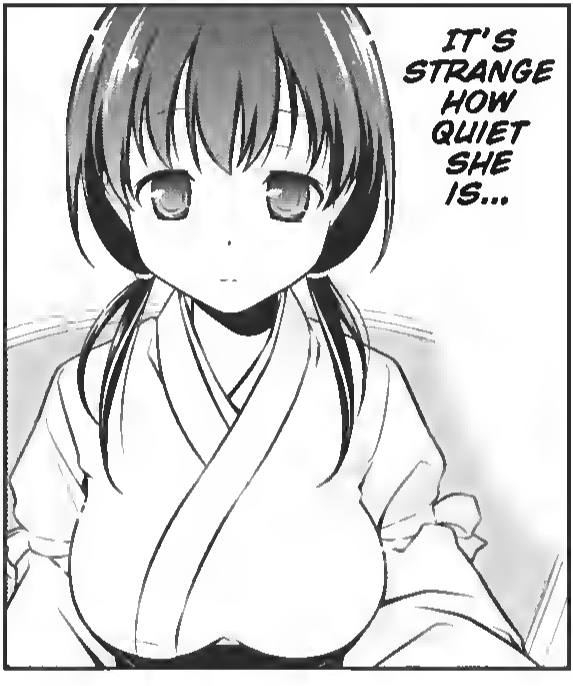
.....


DISCARDING THE FIVE OF CHARACTERS IS ABSOLUTELY MY BEST CHANCE AT GETTING TO TENPAI, BUT... MMM...
MY HAND STOPPED AT A PLACE WHERE I NORMALLY WOULDN'T HESITATE...
MM?

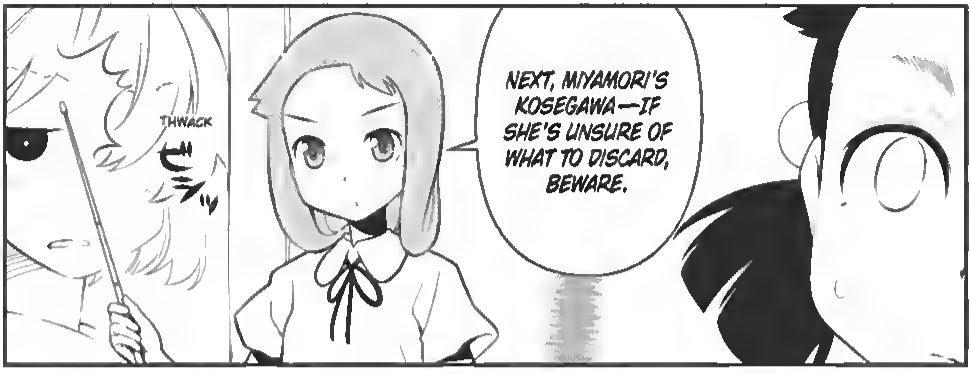
EISUI'S JINDAI—

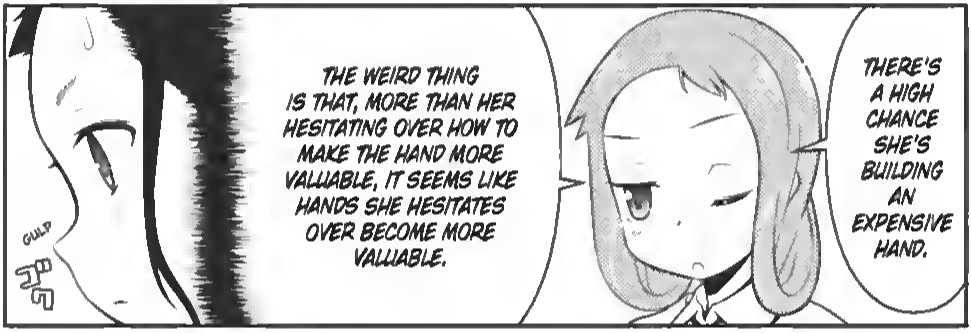

チラ
GLANCE
STILL, I'M NERVOUS ABOUT THE PLAYER ACROSS FROM ME...

I NEED A SHORT TIME OUT.


IT'S STRANGE HOW QUIET SHE IS...

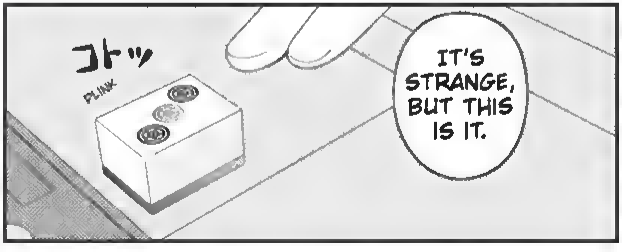
THERE IT IS...! HER "SHORT TIME OUT!"


THWACK
NEXT, MIYAMORI'S KOSEGAWA—IF SHE'S UNSURE OF WHAT TO DISCARD, BEWARE.


GULP
THE WEIRD THING IS THAT, MORE THAN HER HESITATING OVER HOW TO MAKE THE HAND MORE VALUABLE, IT SEEMS LIKE HANDS SHE HESITATES OVER BECOME MORE VALUABLE.
THERE'S A HIGH CHANCE SHE'S BUILDING AN EXPENSIVE HAND.

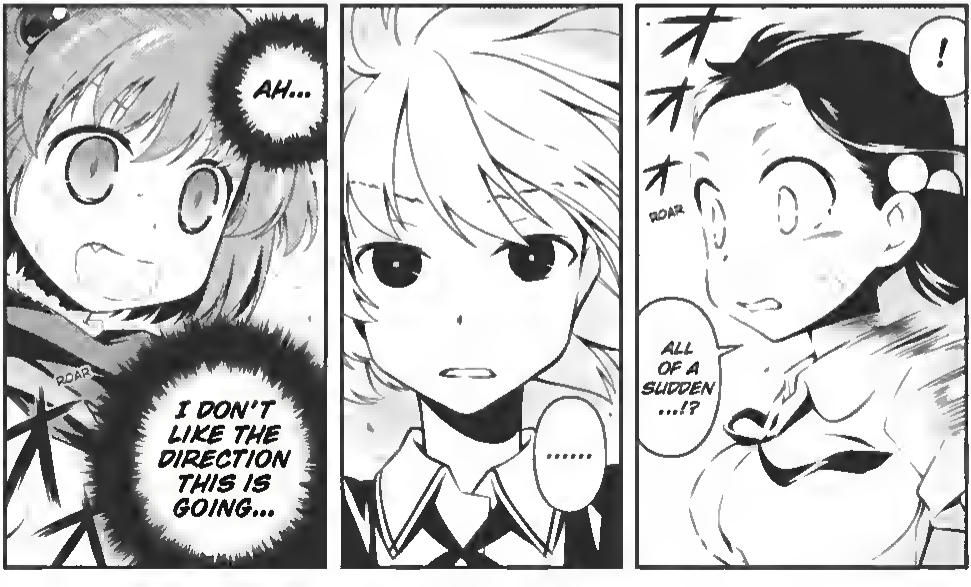
SHI-ROMI KOSE-GAWA—
I'VE DECIDED.

WHEN SHE HESITATES HER HAND BECOMES VALUABLE .....


コトッ
PLINK
IT'S STRANGE, BUT THIS IS IT.

AH...
SWIP
I—
I'M SORRY. I WAS ASLEEP FOR A BIT.
?
BWA ?
WHAT !?
BUT YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING WITH YOUR EYES OPEN!
MY POINTS ARE DOWN...
I APOLOGIZE... SOMETIMES THIS HAPPENS WHEN I'M TIRED...
BUT...
...THAT'S RATHER RUDE OF ME, SO FROM HERE ON OUT...

...I'LL PLAY...
FLASH
FLASH
...WITH ALL MY POWER, AND THEN SOME!


AH...
ROAR
I DON'T LIKE THE DIRECTION THIS IS GOING...
.....
!
ROAR
ALL OF A SUDDEN ...!?

Saki 8

Saki 8

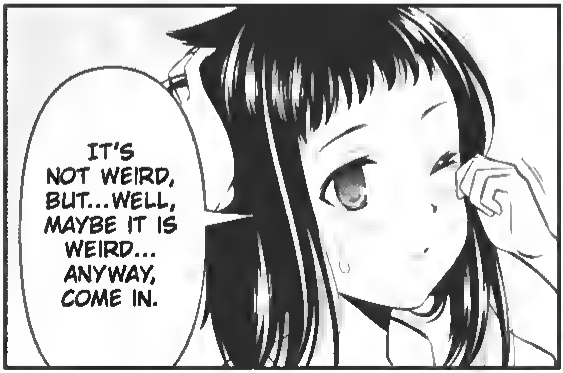
DAY FOUR OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TOURNAMENT, FINAL DAY OF THE FIRST ROUND
SUKOYA !
A FRIEND IS HERE TO SEE YOU—!
MM...
I'M OFF TODAY, SO JUST LET ME SLEEP—
A FRIEND ...!?

SIDE STORY: ROUND AND VIGOROUS

WHAT UP!!?

I CAME HERE TO HANG OUT WITH YOU! IS THAT WEIRD?
キュ
BLING

KOKO-CHAN... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?
HEE HEE!

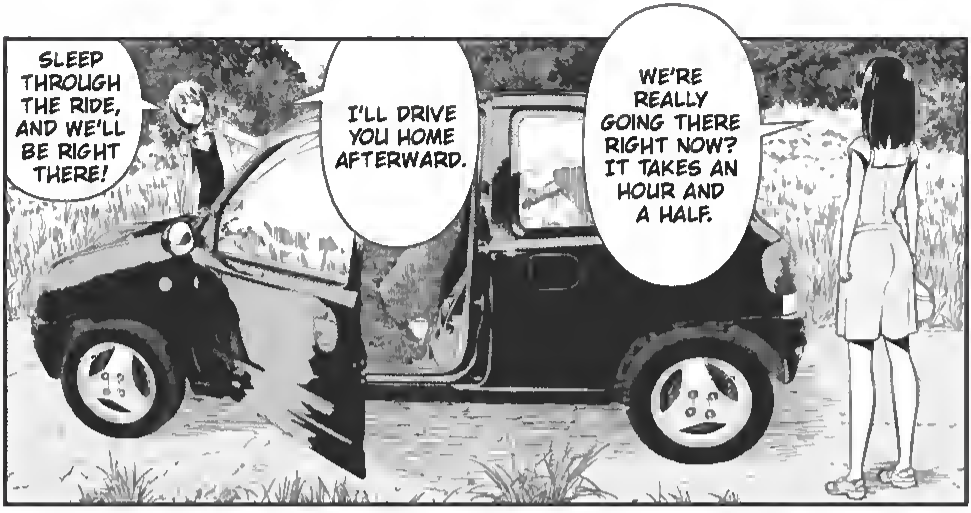

IT'S NOT WEIRD, BUT...WELL, MAYBE IT IS WEIRD... ANYWAY, COME IN.

SORRY THAT I'M A WOMAN, BUT THANKS FOR HAVING ME OVER!
YOU SHOULD START BRINGING MALE FRIENDS OVER TOO.
MOM, I'M SICK OF HEARING THAT!

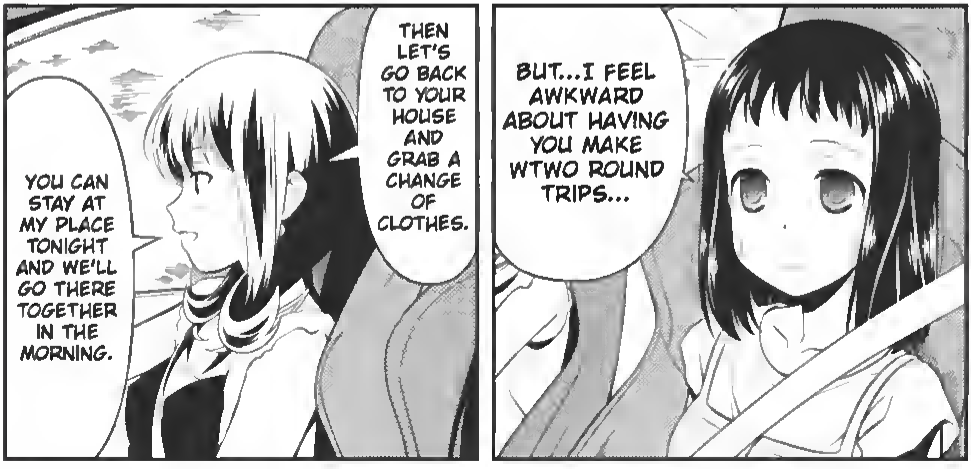
TWINKLE
IT'S A CAMERA!!
WHAT'S THAT ATTACHED TO YOUR EAR ...?
HEY, I'VE BEEN WONDERING...

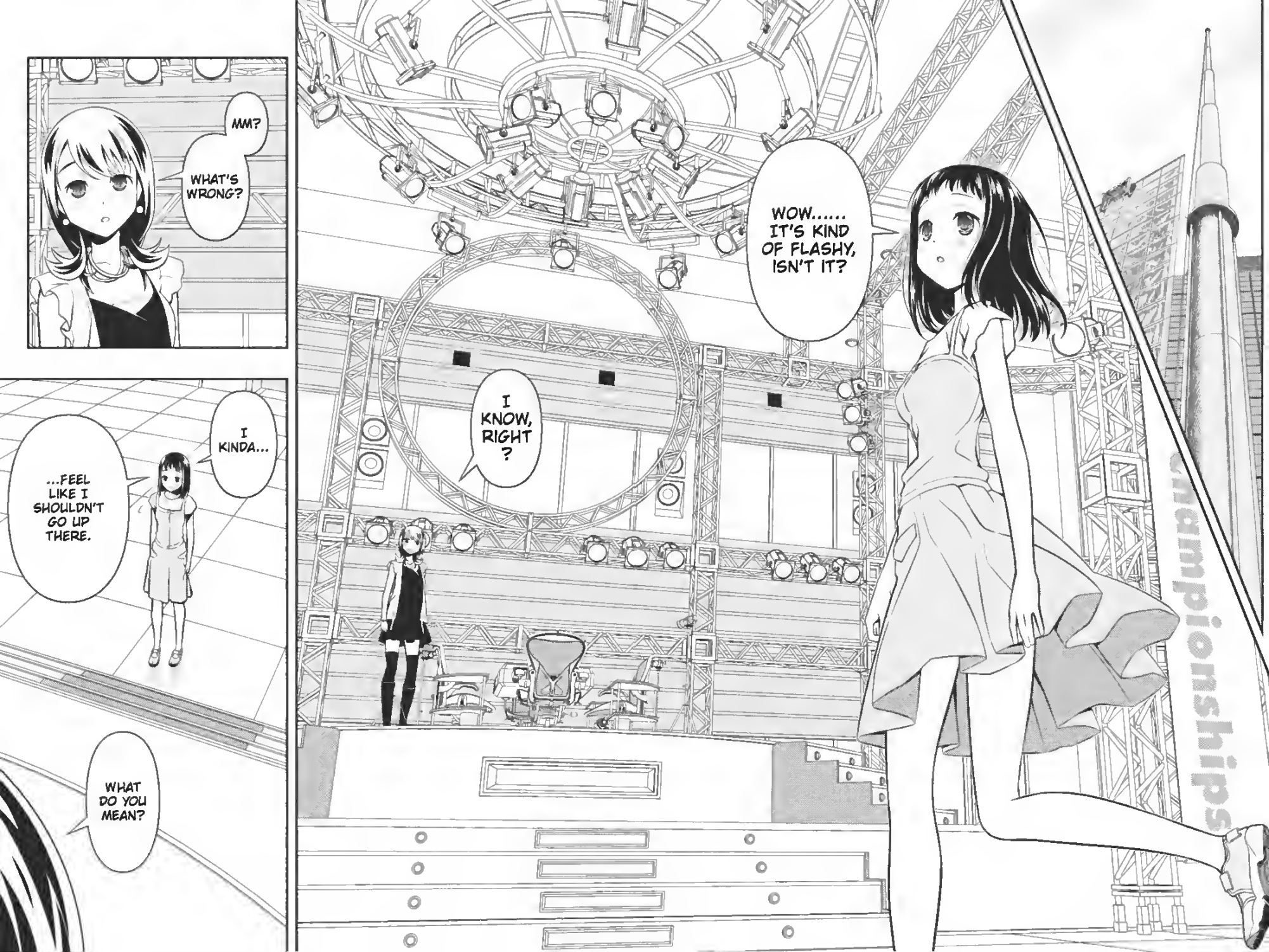
EHHHH!?
I'M STREAMING THIS IN REAL TIME OVER THE NET!
HH!?

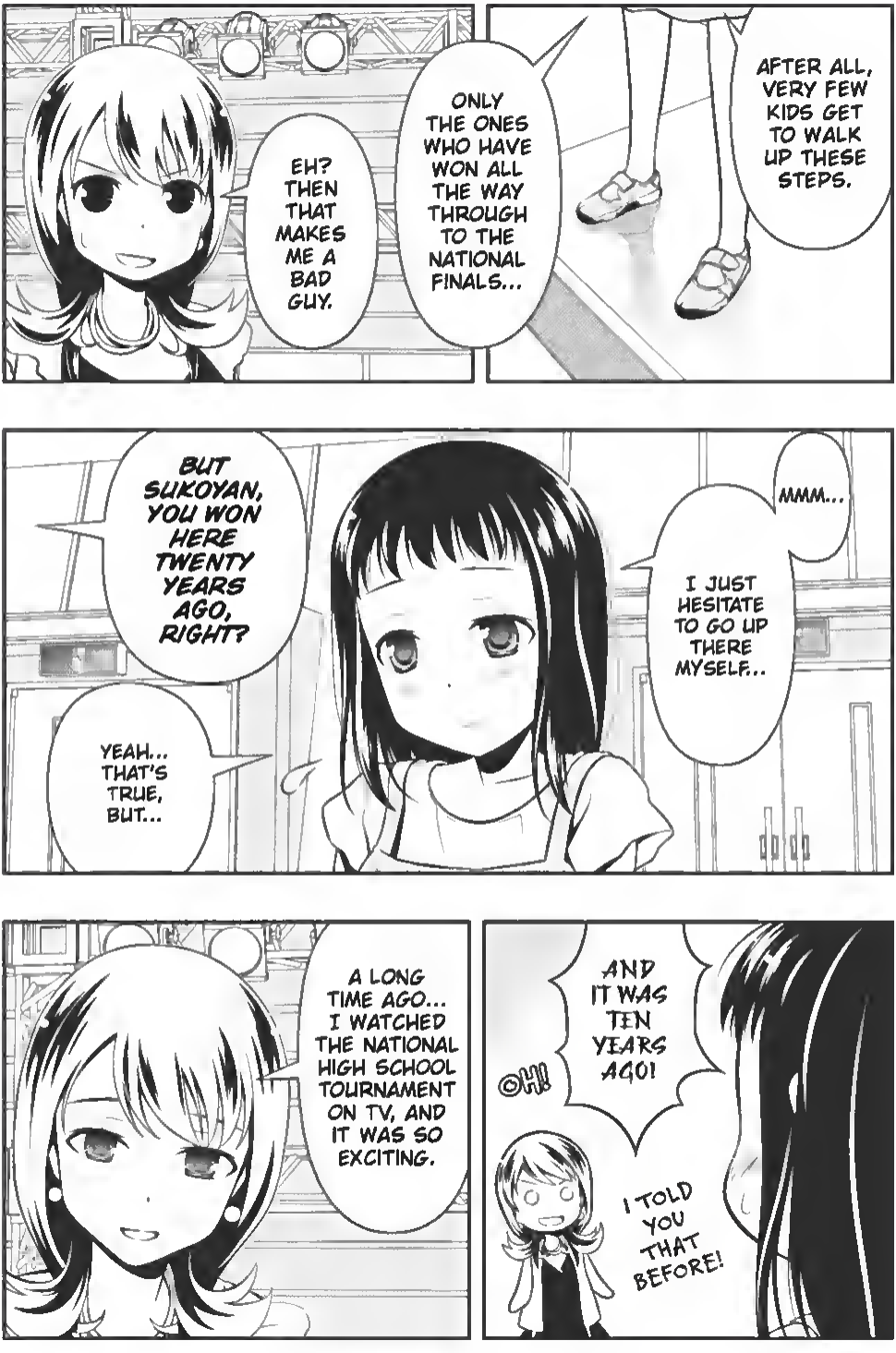
YOU'RE GONNA GET SUED SOME-DAY!
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT!?
I DON'T THINK THAT'S IT.
MMM... OH, MAYBE IT'S THE JOURNALIST IN ME?
AND A DIFFER-ENT STATION ...
HUH...? BUT THEY'VE GOT OTHERS WORKING TODAY...
WANNA GO TO THE TOURNA-MENT, LIKE NOW?
SAY...
I'D LIKE TO CHECK OUT THE BATTLE-GROUND FIRSTHAND TO PREPARE FOR OUR BROADCAST TOMORROW.
NO, NOT LIKE THAT. I HEARD THEY FINISHED CONSTRUCTING THE STAGE THAT'S GONNA BE USED STARTING TOMORROW, FOR THE SECOND ROUND AND AFTER.


SLEEP THROUGH THE RIDE, AND WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
I'LL DRIVE YOU HOME AFTERWARD.
WE'RE REALLY GOING THERE RIGHT NOW? IT TAKES AN HOUR AND A HALF.

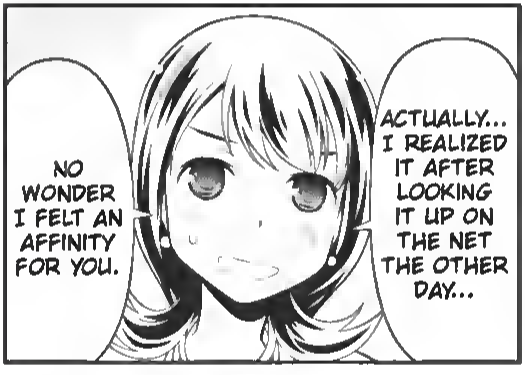
ドドド
VROOM


YOU CAN STAY AT MY PLACE TONIGHT AND WE'LL GO THERE TOGETHER IN THE MORNING.
THEN LET'S GO BACK TO YOUR HOUSE AND GRAB A CHANGE OF CLOTHES.
BUT...I FEEL AWKWARD ABOUT HAVING YOU MAKE WTWO ROUND TRIPS...


MM?
WHAT'S WRONG?
I KINDA...
...FEEL LIKE I SHOULDN'T GO UP THERE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I KNOW, RIGHT?
WOW..... IT'S KIND OF FLASHY, ISN'T IT?
Championships


AFTER ALL, VERY FEW KIDS GET TO WALK UP THESE STEPS.
ONLY THE ONES WHO HAVE WON ALL THE WAY THROUGH TO THE NATIONAL FINALS...
EH? THEN THAT MAKES ME A BAD GUY.
MMM...
I JUST HESITATE TO GO UP THERE MYSELF...
BUT SUKOYAN, YOU WON HERE TWENTY YEARS AGO, RIGHT?
YEAH... THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
A LONG TIME AGO... I WATCHED THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TOURNAMENT ON TV, AND IT WAS SO EXCITING.
OH!
AND IT WAS TEN YEARS AGO!
I TOLD YOU THAT BEFORE!

I WAS CHEERING FOR THE GIRL WHOSE UNIFORM HAD A ROUND COLLAR AND GRAY RIBBON, AND SHE WON.
HUH...? DON'T TELL ME... HOW MANY YEARS AGO WAS IT?
I WAS A SECOND-YEAR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT THEN...

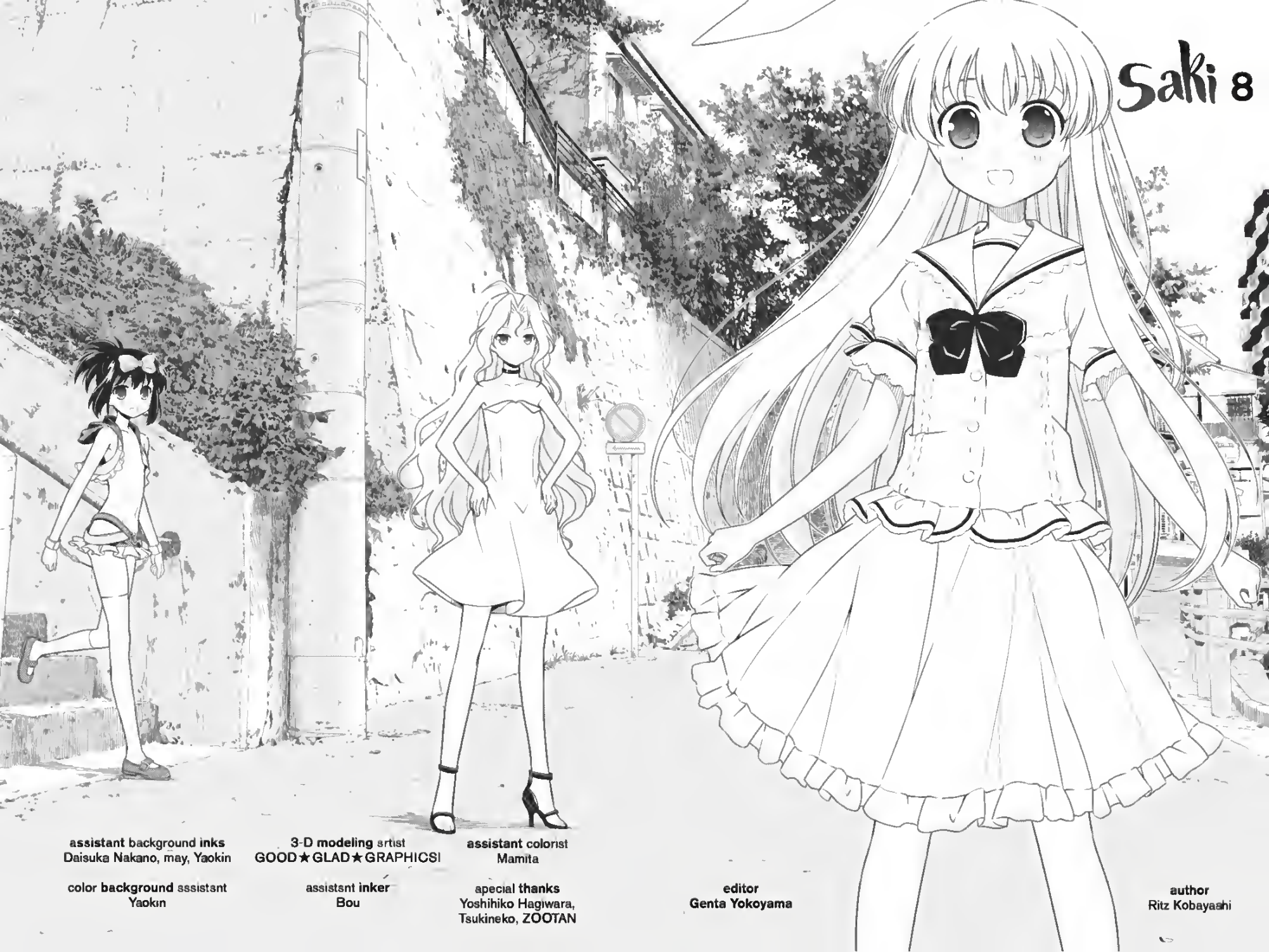

ACTUALLY... I REALIZED IT AFTER LOOKING IT UP ON THE NET THE OTHER DAY...
NO WONDER I FELT AN AFFINITY FOR YOU.

...SO I GUESS TEN YEARS AGO!
...!

AND SO, AGAIN, I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR COMMENTARY.
BOW
BOW

SAKI 8: THE END

Saki 8



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Saki 8

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, TACO GIRL!
WELL, LET'S TAKE IT SLOWLY.
STILL NO CLUES, HUH?
SHOOT

HEH HEH!
WHO ARE YOU?
HM?

SO KANA-CHAN IS GONNA STOP YOU...
YOU'RE TRYING TO DESTROY MY KINGDOM'S CORN MONOPOLY!
!

ズ
RAM
ΣΙΙΟ3-.
RRR...
YOU'RE GONNA TAKE US TO YOUR KINGDOM.
THAT PHRASE ONLY WORKS IF YOU HIT SOMEONE WITH THE BLUNT SIDE!
DON'T WORRY. I STABBED HER.

TO BE CONTINUED!

SAKI 8

Ritz Kobayashi

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